UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1256
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(f))

COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION WHICH ARE DEVELOPING FROM THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF OTHER REGIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The activities described below are considered to be of particular interest to ECE countries which are developing from the economic point of view and to developing countries of other regions. In the past year 24 countries from other regions have participated in 99 ECE meetings, in particular in the sectors of trade, energy and transport. Nine of these were countries of the ESCAP region, 9 of the ECA region, 5 of the ECLAC region and one of the ESCWA region.

Economic developments, problems and prospects

2. Radical economic reforms in central and east European countries, and the importance attached to their transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and global economies have created a need for economic analysis by the secretariat akin to that undertaken for the countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries of other regions.

GE.92- 20573 /7293a

3. Data newly available shows that the overall level of development of most of the centrally planned economies was much lower than officially reported or assumed, and for some of them it was similar to that of developing countries. Hence the secretariat's work concerned with the transition of these countries to a market system is relevant to countries which are developing from the economic point of view.

4. A considerable part of the forthcoming publication on Social and Economic Aspects of Aging of the Population is devoted to the less-developed countries of the region. The comparative analysis of the problems is also significant since the problems of aging transcend the usually understood frontiers of social and economic systems and the stages of development. Several other population projects carried out with financial support from UNFPA, for example on fertility and family surveys and population related policies, pay considerable attention to the countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view.

Agriculture

5. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development provides countries which are developing from the economic point of view with an opportunity to participate in the elaboration of international commercial standards for products of special interest to them, especially fresh or dried fruit and vegetables; it also offers advice and assistance regarding quality control for exports.

6. The secretariat and the various joint ECE/FAO working parties provide direct or indirect inputs to FAO's work aimed principally at developing countries in the fields of agriculture and food statistics, sustainable agricultural and rural development, land use, farm management, selected aspects of soil fertility, the use of water resources and fertilizers.

Timber

7. Through its seminars and teams of specialists for countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries in other regions, the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training provides practical information in the field of forest operations and management. A publication was issued in 1990 on "Afforestation Techniques in Mediterranean Countries". The International Forest Fire News is published twice yearly and contains information from all parts of the world. A seminar was held in Greece in November 1991 on forest fire prevention, land use and people, at which the socio-economic aspects of forest fire prevention received special attention. The proceedings will be published in 1992.

8. The Timber Committee's forest product market analysis deals, inter alia, with the ECE region's trade with the tropical timber producing countries from both the short- and long-term perspective. The latter covers imports and utilization of tropical hardwoods from sustainably managed forests and involves cooperation with FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

Environment

9. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems have prepared, for adoption at their fifth session and subsequent signature, draft Conventions on environmental issues of growing significance also to developing countries: the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. The 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context is being implemented on an interim basis, pending its entry into force. Taking into account specific provisions of these Conventions it is expected that their implementation would promote the exchange of relevant technologies, research results and experience to countries which are developing from an economic point of view.

10. The 1991 Espoo Ministerial Statement, adopted at the fourth session of the Senior Advisers, fully recognized the special responsibilities of ECE member countries in relation to global environmental problems and expressed their readiness to take a lead in the effort towards solving these problems and to assist developing countries in their environmental and development efforts, focusing this contribution on the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, on the desirability of completing the framework convention on climate change in time for signing at that Conference.

11. With a view to assisting countries in eastern and southern Europe with their efforts to control air pollution from stationary sources and, in particular, from burning fossil fuels for energy generation, UNDP, with ECE as executing agency, concluded in 1991 a three-year project on environmental management with the emphasis on air pollution control. The project was designed to reflect the specific needs of Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia. In 1991 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic joined the project. Cooperation was enhanced in the field of exchange of technology with a view, inter alia, to upgrading individual national capabilities for implementing the provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols.

Human Settlements

12. The Committee on Human Settlements is finalizing two publications which are of practical value to developing countries: (a) a compendium of policy conclusions and recommendations emerging from the past 10 years of ECE activities in the field of human settlements, and (b) housing policy guidelines.

Industrial development

13. A study was published by UNIDO in cooperation with ECE on the outcome of the ECE Seminar on Computer Integrated Manufacturing, held in Botevgrad (Bulgaria) in 1989. The recently issued study on Food-processing Machinery, including Packaging Techniques (ECE/ENG.AUT/43) addressed issues relevant to the restructuring of food industries and the introduction of new food technologies in developing countries.

International trade and development finance

14. The Committee on the Development of Trade, in December 1991, discussed the trade problems of ECE member countries which are developing from the economic point of view on the basis of a report on the workshop held in Bucharest (Romania) in September 1991 on the subject of foreign trade and payment reforms in the economies in transition. The Committee invited the secretariat to complete its study of the possibilities of stimulating bilateral and other trade and investment relations among interested countries on a regional basis.

15. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade of all countries, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/118, called on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project for interregional cooperation in this area that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, UN/EDIFACT.

16. A project document for interregional cooperation, prepared by the regional commissions and UNCTAD, was submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1990. At its second regular session in July 1991, the Council, recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, adopted resolution 1991/76 by which it requested the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to elaborate specific proposals relating to interregional cooperation in this field and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations.

17. The ECE, together with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, is in the process of finalizing such project proposals at both the regional and global levels. Conscious, however, that a solid foundation for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level should be created before proceeding to its global application, the ECE secretariat will start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE countries where facilitation of international trade procedures is still at an early stage.

Energy issues

18. The ECE/UNDP project on Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning was concluded, as planned, on 31 December 1991. This Project enhanced the professional skills of practising architects, engineers and town planners by making greater use of passive solar heating and natural cooling techniques. The Project resulted in the creation of an international network of institutions for low energy building design; a state-of-the-art survey of energy use in the built environment; a simple computer programme for energy efficienct building design; a design guide and a computer manual; as well as a series of international training courses in participating countries.

19. The ECE/UNDP Project on International Cooperative Research on Low-calorie Solid-fuel Technology drew to an end, as planned, on 31 December 1991. The Project aimed at the development of technologies for the efficient and environmentally-sound utilization of brown coal and lignite, thereby enhancing

the contribution of indigenous sources of energy to domestic needs. Its outputs consisted of coordinated research between specialized institutes focusing on the testing of different kinds of low-grade coals, the application of low-emission combustion processes, the upgrading of brown coal and lignite, corrision and erosion during combustion, waste disposal and utilization. Study tours were organized as well as training courses, fellowships, ad hoc meetings and workshops. The Project's Steering Committee concluded its work with proposals to ECE and UNDP for international programmes on fluidized-bed gasification of brown coal and lignite, low-NO_x burners and pre-combustion preparation of solid fuels.

20. The ECE Seminar on Solar Power Systems took place in Alushta (former USSR) in April 1991. Participants reviewed the present status and development prospects of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and solar hybrid systems and addressed the future applications and viability of solar power. A Round Table considered the role of solar energy for environmentally-sustainable energy supply as well as possibilities for international cooperation. The Seminar drafted recommendations to Governments, industry and international organizations including the United Nations and ECE (ENERGY/SEM.10/2).

21. The Working Party on Gas concluded a first study on the integration and extension of European gas grids, including interconnections with non-European suppliers around the Mediterranean. The findings of the Symposium on the Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and LPG as Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines (Kiev (Ukraine), September 1991) are also of relevance to developing countries which consider using such fuel. The Working Party on Coal adopted a Code for the Draught Survey of Coal-carrying Cargoes, of interest to coal-exporting developing countries.

22. Under the auspices of the Committee on Energy, a Meeting in March 1991 considered an interregional project entitled "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an inter-regional approach", which would be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) for approval. The project aims at enhancing the planning, administrative, economic, technical and financial capacities of developing countries to develop and implement efficient energy systems themselves. It would be implemented by the regional commissions.

Transport, communications and tourism

23. In the transport sector the ECE Regional Transport Adviser has carried out a series of missions to the countries of the region developing from an economic point of view to provide advice and assistance in the development of transport programmes and infrastructure.

24. Since 1982 the ECE, in cooperation with ECA, has continued to implement Council resolutions on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, and presented a global evaluation of the studies and work relating to the project to the Council's second regular session in 1991. The same session approved a resolution (1991/74) requesting the Executive Secretaries of ECA and ECE to prepare an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Council in 1993.

25. A Guide to the Compilation of Transport Statistics in Market Economies has been prepared by the secretariat to assist developing countries and countries in transition in setting up new statistical systems commensurate with the requirements of modern transport markets. Work is also underway, in cooperation with UNDP, to establish national transport data systems which will, on a harmonized basis, provide institutional and private investors with the necessary data to allow rational decision making.

26. The secretariat has also continued to provide assistance to developing countries of other regions in the field of transport. Joint action has been initiated between the ECE and ESCAP secretariats to promote the adoption and implementation of various international legal instruments in Asia, such as the Vienna Conventions of 1968, the TIR Convention of 1975 and the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of 1982, with a view to providing common legal regimes applicable to intercontinental land transport between Europe and Asia.

Statistics

27. The ECE, as executing agency, has managed the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2) and ensured, in close cooperation with the Steering Committee and the lead countries, the finalization of the programmed outputs of the Project. Twenty-three member countries participated in the SCP-2, of which seven were IPF countries. Thirty-two final outputs are currently available and have been distributed to 24 countries in Africa, Europe and South America.

28. At the request of the SCP-2 Steering Committee, a regional Transition Project on Applied Statistical Computing in Central and East European Countries, dealing with the adaptation of statistical services to market-economy conditions, was elaborated and forwarded to UNDP for the Fifth UNDP Programming Cycle. The proposal was included in the draft UNDP regional programme.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1257
9 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(g))

RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions in 1991, and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, namely during the period since the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1991/91 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/46/49).

GE.92-20689 /7366a

PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1991

1991/22 National, regional and interregional machinery for the advancement of women

3. In paragraph 5 the Council requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the regional commissions and within existing resources, to promote such an exchange of information through the United Nations documents, by supporting regional and subregional meeetings of national machineries, by using resources from the regular budget of the five regional commissions, by making provisions for it in the proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and by annually updating and distributing the Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women.

1991/51 International cooperation and coordination of efforts to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

4. For an account of ECE activities in this regard see paragraphs 28-30 below.

1991/57 Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

5. In paragraph 2, the Secretary-General is requested to incorporate in the existing recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods all the new and amended recommendations approved by the Committee at its sixteenth session, to publish them in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 1991, and to circulate them immediately after publication. The English and French versions have been published and circulated (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.7).

6. In paragraph 4, the Council invites all interested Governments and the international organizations concerned, when developing appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts. The United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods are widely implemented worldwide through national regulations and international transport instruments, such as the IMO International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail. However, the Sub-Committee of Experts, in December 1991, expressed concern over the development, in particular in the context of the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of new activities which might conflict with the United Nations Recommendations, for example in the field of harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals, and strongly urged Governments to coordinate their work in different organizations to prevent conflicts with established rules and regulations relating to this field.

7. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the Council recommended once again that adequate funding be provided to support the work of the Committee, if possible by setting up a special fund, and requested the Secretary-General to make available, within existing resources, one additional Professional and one additional General Service post for the adequate servicing of the Committee. The ECE budget for the biennium 1992-1993, approved by the General Assembly, includes a new post at the P-3 level for this purpose.

1991/72 Membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe

8. At its thirty-second plenary meeting on 26 July 1991, the Council adopted the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the wide range of economic relations that exist between Israel and the States members of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering also that Israel has expressed its readiness to contribute to the work of the Commission by accepting the responsibilities inherent in full membership,

Considering further that, at its forty-sixth session, the Commission took note of the renewal of the application of Israel to the Council for temporary admission as a member of the Commission and looked forward to a decision by the Council on the admission of Israel in accordance with its application,

Decides to amend paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe by adding Israel to the list of members of the Commission in accordance with its request for temporary admission as a member of the Commission, as contained in the letter dated 16 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council.

1991/74 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

9. In paragraph 1 the Council welcomes the cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Governments of Morocco and Spain and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean.

10. In paragraph 2 it invites the States concerned and the competent scientific institutes and institutions to cooperate with the ECA, the ECE and the Governments of Morocco and Spain to encourage and facilitate the development of land transport infrastructures linked to the works across the Strait of Gibraltar and cooperation in regard to administrative and customs procedures.

11. In paragraphs 4 and 5 the Council requests the Executive Secretaries of the ECA and the ECE to prepare an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Council at its regular session of 1992, and calls upon the Secretary-General to allocate as far as possible sufficient resources to the ECA and the ECE, within existing priorities, for the preparation of the above-mentioned evaluation report.

1991/76 Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

12. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade of all countries, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/118, called on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project for interregional cooperation in this area that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, UN/EDIFACT.

13. A project document for interregional cooperation, prepared by the regional commissions and UNCTAD, was submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1990. At its second regular session in July 1991, the Council, recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, adopted resolution 1991/76 by which it requested the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to elaborate specific proposals relating to interregional cooperation in this field and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations.

14. The ECE, together with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, is in the process of finalizing such project proposals at both the regional and global levels. Conscious, however, that a solid foundation for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level should be created before proceeding to its global application, the ECE secretariat will start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE countries where facilitation of international trade procedures is still at an early stage.

1991/84 International Conference on Water and the Environment

15. In paragraph 4 the Council "Calls upon the governing bodies and secretariats of appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference".

16. The ECE secretariat participated in the preparatory process for the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin (Ireland), 26-31 January 1992). It provided a written contribution and participated actively in the discussions at the Conference.

1991/86 Development and efficient use of energy resources

17. In this resolution the Council recognized the importance of energy conservation and efficient management of energy resources as a means of preventing energy shortages in developing countries, and called upon the United Nations system and the international community, including developed countries, to intensify international exchanges of experience and the flow of efficient techologies to developing countries.

18. Within ECE the cooperation on the transfer of energy-efficient technologies and management practices takes place through the project "Energy Efficiency 2000". An ad hoc meeting on "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Inter-regional Approach" took place on 6 March 1992 and agreed on an international project to be financed from extra-budgetary resources and executed by the regional commissions, to enhance the capacities of developing countries to develop and implement their own energy-efficient systems (ENERGY/AC.13/2).

1991/92 Work programme in the field of population

19. This resolution, among other things, calls on the Secretary-General to continue work on population policies, reproductive behaviour, the family, and population distribution and migration, and also invites him to work closely, inter alia, with Member States in the implementation of programmes.

20. In response to Commission decision G (40), which called on the Executive Secretary to continue the work in the field of population, within existing resources, and to maintain collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the secretariat is currently engaged in four research projects, which are financially supported by UNFPA, in the fields of international migration, population ageing, fertility and the family, and population trends and policies.

1991/93 International Conference on Population and Development

21. This resolution, inter alia, invites regional commissions to convene as soon as possible meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions and to propose future action as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development.

22. In response to this resolution and pursuant to Commission decision G (40) (see para. 20 above), the ECE, together with UNFPA and the Council of Europe, is preparing a European Population Conference, which will take place in Geneva on 23-26 March 1993. It will review policy related population issues and population policies in the ECE region as well as adopt recommendations on key population related issues and policies. The recommendations and other documents of this conference will be an input to the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for 1994.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

46/96 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

23. A series of three workshops on rehabilitation engineering, organized in cooperation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering and the World Health Organization, constitutes the principal ECE contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992.

24. The first Workshop (Washington D.C. (USA), June 1990) reviewed recent rehabilitation technologies and service delivery systems, and the second Workshop (Fagernes (Norway), May 1991) focused on economic and social aspects of rehabilitation engineering. The third, to be held at Trebon (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) from 24 to 27 May 1992, will focus on international cooperation in the field, including technology transfer, exchange of information, education and training, with emphasis on supportive programmes and projects to be launched in countries in transition to market economies. A study on recent trends, foreseeable developments and suggested strategies would aim to promote rehabilitation engineering in the ECE region.

46/100 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

25. In paragraph 1 the Assembly urges the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy level and decision making posts, in order to achieve the goals (resolutions 45/125 and 45/239 C) of an overall participation rate of 35% by 1995 and, to the extent possible, 25% in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995.

26. In paragraph 3 the Assembly strongly encourages Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations by nominating more women candidates, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and by creating national rosters of women candidates.

27. As of 1 March 1992 women occupy 16.5% of ECE posts subject to geographical distribution, although in 1991 43% of professional vacancies were filled by women.

46/150 Strengthening of international cooperation and the coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

28. In paragraph 2 the Assembly welcomes the practical measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl including the setting up of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the preparation of the Joint Plan of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

29. In paragraph 5 the Assembly requests inter alia the programmes of the United Nations system to continue the consideration of possible technical and other specialized assistance and specific actions in the areas most affected by the accident, particularly in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator, taking into account the Joint Plan introduced by the Secretary-General at the Chernobyl Pledging Conference held in New York on 20 September 1991.

30. The Executive Secetary's note E/ECE/1259 contains an account of ECE activities in this field.

46/168 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

31. In paragraph 4 the Assembly "stresses the importance of the regional meetings held within the framework of preparations for the Conference, and in this regard calls upon the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session to continue to give due attention to the recommendations of all regional meetings, including those held recently".

32. The results of the Bergen Conference were submitted to the UNCED preparatory process. At Prepcom III consideration was also given to the document on environmental rights and obligations, a follow-up to the Bergen Conference. The ECE secretariat is contributing to the UNCED preparatory process and has attended the second, third and fourth Prepcom. The regional commissions submitted a joint document on their activities in the field of environment and development to the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

46/202 Impact of the recent evolution of east-west relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular in the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation

33. In paragraph 3 the Assembly recognized the need to enhance the positive aspects of the fundamental transformations in the central and east European countries and their integration into the world economy.

34. In paragraph 7 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General, in reviewing the impact of the recent evolution of east-west relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation, to submit to its forty-seventh session, a report containing inter alia an analysis of the impact on developing countries of the measures taken to integrate central and east European countries into the world economy.

35. The issue is also on the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). In preparation for that discussion all United Nations agencies have been invited to submit a description of the implications for their activities.

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSIONS IN 1991

1991/17 Improvement of the status of women in the secretariat

1991/88 Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

1991/90 Coordination of programmes within the United Nations in the field of natural resources

1991/302 Convening of an ad hoc meeting of high-level experts on the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions.

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

46/42 Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

46/98 Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

46/217 International cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1258
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 4(a))

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

(Commission decision B (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 10 of decision B (46). A report on the practical and sectoral activities of the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat, as referred to in paragraph 4 of decision B (46), is contained in document E/ECE/1254.

2. In paragraph 1 of this decision the Commission reaffirmed the need for high-quality "observation and analysis of the development of economies in the region, and in particular those of central and eastern Europe, in order to promote the process of economic reform and to integrate the economies in transition with the European and global economies". This has been at the centre of the secretariat's work of economic analysis and its analytical work on the transition process, including internal and external conditions, has been accorded high priority. In the Economic Bulletin for Europe, volume 43, special attention was paid to the costs of transformation in terms of output, employment and social security, as well as to the collapse of the intra-CMEA

GE.92- 20570/7331a

trade and payments system and its impact on the mutual trade of the economies in transition. The Economic Survey for Europe in 1991-1992 will further highlight developments in the transition countries, including those relating to property rights and privatization.

3. Considerable efforts have been made in the past year "by member countries, the European Community and competent international institutions to participate actively in transition-related activities on a bilateral or multilateral basis" (para.2).

4. In response to the request contained in paragraph 3 of decision B (46) concerning cooperation "with the European Community and with the other international institutions dealing with the same issues of economic research and analysis", the secretariat informed the Senior Economic Advisers about its contacts with the European Community and the international organizations listed in the decision. On that occasion it was acknowledged that there had been no duplication and that the necessary steps towards cooperation with the European Community, the OECD and the World Bank had been taken. The Senior Economic Advisers requested the secretariat to continue its efforts towards closer cooperation and coordination with these organizations and other international organizations engaged in the economic analysis of the transition process. Accordingly numerous contacts, including mutual visits, have resulted in closer cooperation in the area of economic analysis.

5. In response to the request contained in paragraph 4, the Senior Economic Advisers made an assessment of the workshops held under the auspices of various Principal Subsidiary Bodies. This assessment indicated that the workshops appeared to be a very flexible and cost-effective approach to helping economies in transition tackle their current problems. The Senior Economic Advisers found that "the workshops could be a useful method of work, provided that they are well prepared, oriented towards practical issues of transition to a market system and restricted to a limited number of participants in order to ensure an effective dialogue ... The Senior Economic Advisers also stressed that the original concept of workshops, particularly with respect to the limited involvement of the secretariat, should be maintained. This principle was of special relevance to workshops held in priority areas of activity, notably economic analysis." (ECE/EC.AD/38, para. 41)

6. With respect to the Commission's request that the secretariat "facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy" (para.5 of decision B (46)), the Senior Economic Advisers asked the Executive Secretary to contact the heads of the IMF, OECD, EC, IBRD, and EBRD to indicate that (i) ECE members, including the former Soviet Union and other countries in transition to market economies, had expressed interest in a meeting of relevant multilateral organizations and interested Governments to address the question of coordination of the provision of advice and expertise to nations in economic transition; and that (ii) they would appreciate the views of the head of each organization or other concerned officials as to the value of such a meeting, the level at which such a meeting might be convened, the time it might be held and the subjects it might address. In their replies to the Executive Secretary, the representatives of the organizations concerned took the view that there was no need for such a meeting, as the problem of coordination of financial and technical assistance to the countries of central and eastern Europe was adequately taken care of by existing mechanisms.

7. The second session of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics, held in December 1991, examined the costing and funding of environmental policies in a context of competing priorities, on the basis of the report of a workshop on this topic organized by Hungary in cooperation with ECE and OECD in October 1990. The Working Group also analysed the macro-economic implications of environmental policies on the basis of the report of a workshop on this topic which took place in Oslo (Norway) in September 1991. An ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments for Environmental Policies for countries in transition was convened by the Joint Working Group in cooperation with OECD. The Working Group supported the proposal made by the ad hoc Meeting that the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Senior Economic Advisers recommend to ECE Governments that were not members of OECD that they apply the OECD "Guidelines and considerations for the use of economic instruments in environmental policies". The Joint Working Group prepared a programme of work which includes as main items the assessment of the situation in economies in transition, the impact of economic restructuring on the environment, costing techniques for environmental protection, and the use of economic instruments for environmental policies.

8. The Senior Economic Advisers continued their analysis of selected medium- and long-term economic issues (para.7). A first ad hoc Meeting on International Trade and Structural Change was held in 1991. The Senior Advisers decided to hold a second meeting on that subject in April 1992. They invited member countries to prepare studies on a list of selected topics proposed by the first ad hoc meeting and decided to explore the issues raised by the opening of borders in some geo-economic sub-regions and cooperative ways of dealing with them. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, as lead country, on the basis of national contributions provided by interested countries, will prepare an analytical study on such issues for consideration by the Senior Economic Advisers.

9. In reviewing the work done by the secretariat on the specialized macro-economic data base and the further development of the system of SEM model, the Senior Economic Advisers underlined the usefulness and importance of these activities for member countries and recommended that the data base be extended to incorporate international trade, financial relations, environment and other relevant statistics to facilitate inter-disciplinary research.

10. In accordance with paragraph 8 of decision B (46), in their discussion of the current economic situation, short-term prospects and policy issues in the member countries, the Senior Economic Advisers made use of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1990-1991, which they found highly relevant to their work. The discussion drew mainly upon chapters 1 and 4 and focused on those sections which had been selected as priorities for the exchange of views, i.e. the sequencing of structural reform and macro-economic policies required for the transition to a market economy and the impact of the dismantling of the CMEA trade and payments system on the economics of central and eastern Europe and east-west economic relations. When discussing future work, the Senior Economic Advisers expressed the view that the Survey should continue to pay special attention to the process of transition to the market economy in central and eastern Europe. It was also suggested that the secretariat should provide Governments with regular updates of recent developments. As a follow-up to these proposals, the secretariat prepared a document, The ECE economies in mid-1991, which was made available to the Senior Economic

Advisers. Subsequently, the opening section of the Economic Bulletin for Europe, Volume 43, discussing major developments and policy issues in the ECE region, was issued in early December 1991. The secretariat has made considerable efforts to ensure that the Survey be published in due time, but exceptional developments in the ECE region have made this very difficult as the necessary data for most countries are not available until February.

11. In response to paragraph 9 of decision B (46), the Senior Economic Advisers considered the short- and medium-term impact of the Gulf crisis on the ECE member countries, including the economic consequences resulting from the application of Security Council Resolution 661. They concluded that the Gulf crisis had not had a substantial impact on the developments in the region as a whole, although it may have exacerbated some unfavourable trends which were already under way for the balance of payments and for some member countries which were more heavily involved in economic cooperation with Iraq and/or Kuwait. Country notes submitted by Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia were annexed to the report of the Senior Economic Advisers (ECE/EC.AD/38/Add.1). Some delegations stressed that a full and accurate appraisal of the impact of the Gulf crisis should include careful consideration of a broad range of factors and take into account both direct and indirect effects. Accordingly, the Senior Economic Advisers expressed the view that the Committee established by Resolution 661 should identify ways and means by which these countries can be assisted in overcoming the consequences of the application of that Resolution. The Senior Economic Advisers asked the Executive Secretary to report these findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General and to the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1259
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 4(b))

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

(Commission decision C (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report is prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision C (46) and contains an account of the Commission's activities in this field since the forty-sixth session.

2. In response to the request received in 1990 and 1991 from the Governments of the former USSR, Byelorussian SSR and Ukrainian SSR, a number of ECE subsidiary bodies have considered proposals for, and implemented activities relating to the Chernobyl accident, as set out below. Other possible areas of work are under consideration.

3. Under the auspices of the Committee on Human Settlements, the Workshop on Resettlement of Population as a Result of the Chernobyl Accident was held in Minsk (Belarus) from 4 to 6 December 1991. The Workshop invited the Committee to continue assistance to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine by developing new principles, methods of planning and design, as well as by providing technical expertise to projects elaborated by local experts.

GE.92- 20576/7345a

4. The Working Party on the Chemical Industry is engaged in obtaining and providing information concerning the decontamination of radioactive wastes and soil and the treatment of radioactive waste water, as well as concerning research institutes active in these areas. To date, information has been received from Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Turkey, and two reports have been received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, entitled "Technological Approaches to the Cleanup of Radiologically Contaminated Superfund Sites" and "Assessment of Technologies for the Remediation of Radioactively Contaminated Superfund Sites". A report on the information received was submitted to the Working Party in October 1991. It took note of the report and expressed satisfaction with the work carried out with regard to the mitigation of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and agreed that the secretariat should continue its activities in this field.

5. At the request of the Committee on Agriculture (March 1991) the secretariat asked member countries for information related to their experience with respect to accidents from nuclear power stations and their impact on agricultural production. So far, such information has been received from Finland, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the former USSR and Yugoslavia, as well as from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division on Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and the Commission of the European Communities. The Government of Belarus has expressed readiness to organize a workshop on this subject in 1992.

6. In response to a proposal made in 1990 by the former Ukrainian SSR on behalf of itself and the former USSR and Byelorussian SSR, the Timber Committee included work designed to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident in the priorities of its programme of work. A team of experts will meet at Gomel (Belarus) in March 1992 to assess the present state of knowledge about the impact of the accident on the forestry and forest industry sector and to draw up proposals for consideration by the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training in September 1992.

7. The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation has assisted the Government of Belarus in launching a project aimed at developing a system for automated measurement of radionuclide content in primary and processed food products. A progress report will be considered by the Working Party in February 1993.

8. The Conference of European Statisticians agreed in 1991 to include in the Compendium of Environment Statistics a study on the radiation situation in the former USSR after the accident at Chernobyl.

9. The secretariat has maintained close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator for international cooperation to the regions affected by the accident appointed by the Secretary-General in March 1991 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/190. It has also participated in the Inter-Agency Task Force established under the terms of the same resolution. The secretariat formed part of the mission which the Coordinator led to the affected regions on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the accident on 26 April 1991.

10. The secretariat also participated actively in the preparation of the Chernobyl Pledging Conference held on 20 September 1991 in conjunction with the opening of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. In this context it participated in consultations between the Inter-Agency Task Force and the national Chernobyl committees on the preparation of the Joint Plan elaborated in June 1991 by the Governments of the former USSR, Byelorussian SSR, Ukrainian SSR and Russian SFSR and submitted to the Pledging Conference.

11. The United Nations Coordinator has regularly informed the ECE of the status of the Chernobyl Trust Fund and of her consultations with government representatives of the affected regions as to the use of available funds, ongoing fund-raising activities, as well as steps to adjust the Joint Plan to new circumstances which prevail in the affected regions of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

12. At its second regular session in July 1991 the Economic and Social Council considered the Secretary-General's report on activities undertaken to implement Assembly resolution 45/190 and adopted resolution 1991/51 which, inter alia, welcomed the practical measures taken to coordinate the activities of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as to facilitate the elaboration of the Joint Plan, and requested the Secretary-General and the Coordinator to continue to take measures to implement resolution 45/190.

13. At its forty-sixth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/150 on strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in which it welcomed the practical measures taken by the Secretary-General and the Coordinator including the setting up of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the preparation of the Joint Plan. It also noted with appreciation the results of the Pledging Conference and requested all programmes of the United Nations to continue the consideration of possible technical and other specialized assistance and specific actions in the areas most affected by the accident, in close cooperation with the Coordinator.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1260
25 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 4(c))

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Commission decision E (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. In the light of paragraph 3 of decision E (46), 28 member countries and the European Community have signed the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context so far, and two countries have already ratified it. The first meeting of Signatories prepared a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention pending its entry into force and undertook measures aimed at bringing closer together policies and strategies in relation to environmental impact assessment (ENVWA/WG.3/2).

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision E (46), the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents were adopted by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems at their resumed fifth session held in Helsinki (Finland) on 17-18 March 1992 at the Ministerial level, and were signed by 22 and by 23 Governments respectively, and by the European Community. The results of that session will be reported to the forthcoming Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE in Helsinki and to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992.

GE.92- 20875/7387a

3. At its ninth session, the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted the Protocol Concerning the Control of Volatile Organic Compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/30), as well as a Ministerial Statement, in which Parties to the Convention reiterated the need to devote attention to further reductions of emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (paragraph 5 of decision E (46)).

4. At the same session, the Executive Body considered an outline of a protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993, on the basis of critical loads, best available technology, energy savings and other considerations, including market-based economic instruments (paragraph 6 of decision E (46)) and agreed that the Working Group on Strategies will, as a first priority, present a draft protocol in 1993 or report on progress (ECE/EB.AIR/29, Annex I, item 1.2.1).

5. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision E (46), the Executive Body decided to extend the fifth phase of EMEP to cover also 1993 and 1994 with the addition of a programme element on monitoring of volatile organic compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/29, paragraph 34(f)).

6. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision E (46), a workshop on costing and funding of environmental policies was organized in 1991 in Hungary in cooperation with OECD. In 1992, further workshops will be held: in Hungary, in cooperation with OECD, on the impact of economic restructuring on the environment; in Bulgaria, on legal issues of the improvement of environmental management in countries with economies in transition; and in Israel, on topical issues of interrelationships between agriculture and the environment.

7. In accordance with the Joint Agenda for Action adopted at the Bergen Conference, a High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development was held in Warsaw (Poland) from 10-12 March 1992. It provided an opportunity for Governments, industry and the international community to focus attention on, and develop new opportunities for cooperation on, development strategies for the chemical industry in the 1990s; environment, health and safety in the chemical industry; availability and efficient use of raw materials and energy - infrastructures (transport, communications) and information tools important for chemical industry development; investment and industrial cooperation in the chemical industry; and a new partnership between industry, Governments and international organizations in promoting industrial cooperation and sustainable development.

8. The High-level Meeting adopted conclusions and requested that these be submitted to the Commission for consideration. The results of the High-level Meeting constitute a substantive contribution to the UNCED.

9. The Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics continues to promote the integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies and to enhance cooperation towards sustainable development. Cooperation between the Senior Advisers and the Committee on Agriculture has been initiated on the elaboration of a code of practice for the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides (paragraph 10 of decision E (46)).

10. The Senior Advisers, at their fifth session, expressed their continued support for promoting the integration of environmental considerations in sectoral policies (such as energy and transport), in particular through the enhancement of the development and application of environmental impact assessment procedures (paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision E (46)).

11. Of relevance to paragraph 12 of decision E (46) is the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project which, during its first year of operation, executed nine events in eight countries. Three drafts have been prepared of a list of selected energy efficient and environmentally sound technologies, products and services; policies and programmes for energy efficiency; and a database of individuals, enterprises and institutions involved in trade and cooperation in energy efficiency. A Symposium on the Environmental Benefits of Energy Conservation is being prepared.

12. An ad hoc Meeting on Global Energy Efficiency 21 was held on 6 March 1992 (ENERGY/AC.13/2) to facilitate information exchange on energy efficiency on a global scale and prepare a Project Plan. This will be transmitted to the Preparatory Committee for the UNCED.

13. The secretariat is preparing a publication containing the full texts of all ECE environmental conventions and protocols as a contribution to UNCED which could provide a stimulus for the elaboration of similar legally binding instruments on environmental matters in the other four regions (paragraph 13 of decision E (46)).

14. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of decision E (46), the Senior Advisers will adopt at their sixth session in 1993 a detailed programme for environmental performance reviews of ECE countries non-members of OECD, to be carried out in close cooperation with OECD.

15. In the light of paragraph 15 of decision E (46) and with a view to promoting the application of effective and environmentally sound technologies, the Senior Advisers will convene in Warsaw (Poland) in 1993 a Seminar on Low-waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products. A methodology is being developed for setting up environmental product profiles to improve the flow of information on environmentally related specifications of a product. The Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes will review the development and application of environmental technology and progress made in the implementation of the 1979 Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes in the ECE region.

16. The Ad Hoc Working Group established by the Senior Advisers to prepare a draft contribution to the Conference "Environment in Europe" to be held in Switzerland in winter 1992/1993 will consider, among other things, the implications of the conclusions of the UNCED relevant to European environmental policies with a view to developing proposals for their implementation. The Working Group will also consider the state of negotiations on the various global problems, such as climate change (paragraphs 16 and 17 of E (46)).

17. Pursuant to paragraph 18 of decision E(46) and as a follow-up to the Ad Hoc Meeting on Environmental Rights and Obligations, held in The Hague (Netherlands) in July 1991, a task force led by the Netherlands will prepare a document on this subject.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1261
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 4(d))

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

(Commission decision F (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared in response to paragraph 14 of decision F (46)

2. With respect to international legal instruments, progress was made towards the development of a coherent transport system in Europe through the revision of different agreements and conventions. Work on the revision of the instruments on Road Signs and Signals, taking into account latest developments, should be completed by the end of 1992.

3. The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) which was openend for signature from April 1991 has been signed by 16 member Governments. In the framework of this Agreement a study has been prepared on a possible categorization of inland waterways according to their suitability for combined transport, the results of which may be incorporated into a new legal instrument.

4. The draft of a new Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in International Transport has also been elaborated.

GE.92-20561 /7349a

5. Revision of the 1958 Agreement on the Construction of Vehicles is being considered in order to widen its scope and make it easier for non-ECE countries to become Contracting Parties.

6. Reducing the negative impacts of transport, in particular with respect to traffic safety and protection of the environment, was a major concern of the responsible ECE bodies. Special emphasis was laid on the need to reduce emissions through the reduction of specific fuel consumption and improve the control of vehicles in service. In this connection, Regulations nos. 83 and 49 annexed to the 1958 Agreement have been amended so as to harmonize the limits and testing procedures for emissions of passenger cars and heavy duty diesel-powered vehicles with those of the European Community.

7. Following the European Road Safety Week organized in October 1990, a Seminar on Road Safety will be held from 23 to 24 March 1992. The objectives of the Seminar are: to evaluate the results of the Road Safety Week, to indicate future action aimed at improving road safety in the ECE region, to assess the effectiveness of various systems and media of communication to road users and to indicate measures necessary for improving them.

8. The study on the harmonization and simplification of documentation and administrative procedures in international road transport was completed in 1991. On this basis the Committee adopted conclusions and recommendations concerning follow-up activities to be taken by its subsidiary bodies, aimed at improving the situation in this field.

9. In compliance with Committee resolution no. 237 on Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units in Combined Transport, a Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport has been tentatively scheduled for 1 to 4 September 1992. This would allow the Inland Transport Committee to take a final decision on the subject at its session in 1993.

10. An ad hoc intersecretariat group was created with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) in order to study problems and propose measures for the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport. The ad hoc group has identified a number of border stations on determined rail lines, at which it is envisaged to undertake a detailed analysis of those factors which cause delays in international rail traffic. The group also prepared a draft questionnaire to be submitted to Governments.

11. The implementation of transport infrastructure projects progressed satisfactorily. Under the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project, a TEM Cooperation Trust Fund Agreement was signed between the participating Governments and ECE under which ECE continues to be the Executing Agency for TEM for a period of five years from January 1992 and participating Governments will contribute funds to meet the costs of the project. The project countries have agreed to extend the initial corridor into a network to include also the east-west connections. The work programme includes international financing for the construction of this motorway and establishment of a data base. Within the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project, the Working Party on Infrastructure Development and Technical Operations developed in 1991 a programme of work which includes the creation of a data base and network and

financing issues. The priorities of participating countries and the primary objectives and outputs of the project will be reviewed at the meeting of the Steering Committee in Budapest (Hungary) in March 1992.

12. The study of the traffic flows along the Baltic corridor was included in the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee. In respect of traffic flows along east-west corridors a study was carried out jointly by the Commission of the European Communities and the ECE secretariat to assess of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European developments, which will be analysed with a view to identifying possible follow-up.

13. As a follow-up to the Pan-European Transport Conference (Prague (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic), 29-31 October 1991), the Inland Transport Committee requested the secretariat to participate, together with other international organizations, in the elaboration of an all-European transport concept and to continue to participate and organize intersecretariat EEC, ECMT, ECE high level meetings in order to coordinate work and avoid duplication. The Committee introduced into its programme of work:

- reconsideration of ECE infrastructure agreements and projects in order to take into account inter alia:
  (i) stricter environmental, energy and safety requirements;
  (ii) new east-west flows;
  (iii) the infrastructure needs of central and east European countries establishing priorities and considering financing;
  (iv) ECE environmental conventions

- implementation of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and of the European Agreements supplementing them, and consideration of those legal instruments with a view to raising road safety standards;

- consideration of the TEM and TER projects with a view to a possible east-west extension, development of combined transport and financing

- consideration of transport lines giving access to peripheral regions.

14. The current priority areas of work of the Inland Transport Committee (Construction of Vehicles, Road Safety and Transport of Dangerous Goods) have been complemented with two new areas, namely: Infrastructures and Combined Transport.

15. The following publications were issued or are in preparation:

- Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Seventh edition, 1991);

- Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP, 1991);

- A revision of European Provisions Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway (ADN);

- "Guide to the compilation of transport statistics in market economies";

- The results of an all-European road traffic census based on ECE recommendations carried out in 1990 on the European E road network.

16. The hardware enabling the introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the field of development and administration of Regulations applicable to Construction of Vehicles and to the Transport of Dangerous Goods has been acquired through contributions of Governments and progress is being made in the implementation of the software and conversion of documents into compatible formats.

17. The revision of the classification of European inland waterways has been virtually completed and a resolution to this effect is expected to be adopted by the end of 1992. A study on the establishment of a network of main European inland waterways of international importance has been started, aiming at the elaboration of a draft European Agreement (AGN).

18. With respect to assistance for countries in transition, the following workshops were held in countries of central and eastern Europe on transition issues in the field of inland transport:

- Market Adaptation of the Inland Navigation Industry in Eastern and Central Europe and its Integration into an All-European Transport System (Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 September 1991);

- Problems of Transition from Centrally-Planned to a Market Economy in the Field of Road Transport (Sinaia (Romania), 16-19 September 1991);

- Nature of the Relation between the State and the Railways (Budapest (Hungary), 15-16 October 1991);

- A series of workshops on combined transport issues took place in Prague (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) on 13-14 June 1991, in Budapest (Hungary) from 16-19 September 1991 and in Warsaw (Poland) on 21-22 November 1991.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1262
6 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 3(e))

ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE

(Commission decision L (45))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of decision L (45) the secretariat has continued to cooperate with the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on projects of common interest to all Mediterranean countries. Examples are given under the sectoral headings below.

2. Pursuant to Council resolution 1991/72, Israel became a member of ECE on 26 July 1991, thus increasing the number of ECE member countries in the Mediterranean region. Israel had previously participated actively in ECE work under Article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

3. The Executive Secretary has transmitted ECE documentation to non-ECE Mediterranean countries and has invited those countries to participate in relevant ECE meetings. Representatives from non-ECE Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia) participated in ECE meetings since the forty-sixth session in the fields of energy and transport.

GE.92-20686 /7346a

Statistics

4. The CSCE Meeting on the Mediterranean (Palma de Mallorca, 24 September-19 October 1990) proposed that the Conference of European Statisticians convene a meeting of Statistical Offices of the Mediterranean countries. The proposal was favourably considered by the Conference in June 1991 (ECE/CES/138, paras. 86 to 88) and invitations were extended to all interested member countries to participate in the preparation of this event. The Conference accepted gratefully the offer of the Government of Italy to host the meeting in Palermo, tentatively scheduled for 13 to 15 October 1992.

5. The ECE, as Executing Agency, has completed work on phase two of the Statistical Computing Project (SCP-2) which enjoyed the financial support of UNDP. Thirty-two final outputs are available and have been distributed to countries in Africa and Europe including interested Mediterranean countries.

Transport

6 The Inland Transport Committee in its work on transport infrastructure and the analysis of transport flows, in particular multimodal transport, has continued to take into account the needs of the Mediterranean countries in accordance with the Report of the CSCE Palma de Mallorca Meeting, as illustrated below.

7. The Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean in Volos (Greece), the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain), and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul (Turkey) have continued to cooperate with the Inland Transport Committee and to make a positive contribution to its programme of work on subjects of specific interest to the Mediterranean countries.

8. Further progress was made in 1991 in establishing the technical parameters for the planning, design and construction of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) network. The ECE secretariat, as the Executing Agency, has continued to manage the TEM project. Since UNDP financial support for this project was discontinued at the end of 1991, the TEM countries decided to create a Trust Fund, and a TEM Cooperation Trust Fund Agreement has been signed between ECE and TEM participating countries for the period 1992-1996. ECE will continue to serve as the Executing Agency. The TEM motorway system when completed will provide a continuous link between the North European region and the Mediterranean.

9. Activities carried out within the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project continued in 1991. Since among the present and potential member countries there are several Mediterranean countries, sections of importance for this region will be included in the project. A database is being set up containing technical parameters of infrastructure, performance characteristics, etc. Work in this field was treated as a matter of priority at the meeting of the TER experts on Infrastructure Development and Technical Operation on 21-22 January 1992. The Steering Committee will meet from 24 to 27 March 1992 in Budapest (Hungary) to determine the priorities of the TER countries and the future programme of work of the project.

10. With respect to the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, the ECE in cooperation with ECA continues to implement Council resolutions on the subject. In this connection, the ECE presented a global evaluation of the studies and work relating to the project to the second regular session of the Council in 1991. The same session approved a resolution (1991/74) requesting the Executive Secretaries of ECA and ECE to prepare an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Council in 1993.

Environment

11 The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA) was signed by 28 ECE member countries, including several Mediterranean countries, and the European Community. Six Mediterranean countries took part in the first meeting of the Signatories of this Convention in December 1991. Albania was the first country to ratify the Convention.

12. Experts from Mediterranean countries participated in the finalization of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ENVWA/R.54) as well as in a number of other environment-related activities.

13. In their review of initiatives and projects in the field of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the ECE region of relevance to environmental protection (ENVWA/R.63), the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems examine, inter alia, information regarding the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) which deals with the identification and preparation of environmental investment projects and supports institutional development activities and policies to improve environmental management in the Mediterranean region. They also examine information on the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA) aimed at the development of demonstration projects, public awareness projects and technical assistance to Cyprus, Malta, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Trade Facilitation and Promotion

14. The Working Party on Facilitation of Internatiuonal Trade Procedures has continued its work on the development of UN/EDIFACT which is of interest to all countries of the ECE region including the Mediterranean countries. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade in all regions, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/118, called on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project for interregional cooperation in this area that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of UN/EDIFACT.

15. In its resolution 1991/76 the Council requested the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to elaborate specific proposals relating to interregional cooperation on trade facilitation and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations. The ECE, together with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, is in the process of finalizing such project proposals at both the regional and global levels. Conscious, however, that a solid foundation should be created for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level before proceeding to

its global application, the ECE secretariat will start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE Mediterranean countries as well as to other ECE countries where facilitation of international trade procedures is still at an early stage.

16. In December 1991 the Committee on the Development of Trade considered the possibility of holding a meeting of experts on prospects for east-west trade. Consultations with the Maltese authorities are taking place with a view to convening the meeting in Malta in 1992.

17. At the thirty-ninth session of the Committee (1990), some delegations proposed that the secretariat elaborate on the possibilities of stimulating trade and investment relations between the reforming countries of central and eastern Europe and the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view, including ECE countries of the Mediterranean region. It was suggested that the secretariat examine the possibilities of improving trade and economic cooperation among interested countries on a regional basis, and provide guidelines for attracting investments from developed to developing member countries of the ECE. At its fortieth session the Committee requested the secretariat to complete this study.

Economic Analysis

18. Economic developments in most Mediterranean countries are reviewed in the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 and in the Economic Bulletin for Europe (Vol. 43) under the headings devoted to the market economies of the ECE region. Those in Yugoslavia, previously included in the group named "Southern Europe", are treated in these publications together with other central and east European countries now in transition to a market economy. In ECE's work in the field of population relating to the aging of the population and international migration, developments in south European countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia) are analysed in detail, both collectively and individually in cooperation with national demographic or other research institutes.

Energy

19. The secretariat, as requested by the former Committee on Gas, is assisting ESCWA in organizing and servicing the "Interregional Symposium on Gas Development and Market Prospects by the Year 2000 and Beyond", to be held in Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic), on 20-26 June 1992.

20. The secretariat is preparing a contribution to the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPEDE) Conference on the Development and Operation of Large Interconnected Power Systems, to be held in Tunis (Tunisia) on 3-5 May 1993.

21. A study was completed on the Integration and Extension of European Gas Grids, including Interconnections with Non-European Suppliers around the Mediterranean. The findings of the ECE Symposium on the Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines (held in Kiev (Ukraine), in September 1991) are also of relevance to countries that consider using such fuels.

22. The ECE/UNDP Project on Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning, which concluded on 31 December 1991, has practical applications for the Mediterranean countries. The project promoted greater use of passive solar heating and natural cooling techniques and resulted in the creation of an international network of institutions for low energy building design; a state-of-the-art survey of energy use in the built environment; a simple computer programme for energy efficient building design, a design guide and a computer manual; and a series of international training courses in participating countries.

23. At the Seminar on Solar Power Systems (Alushta (Ukraine), April 1991) participants reviewed the present status and development prospects of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and solar hybrid systems and addressed the future applications and viability of solar power. A Round Table considered the role of solar energy for environmentally-sustainable energy supply as well as possibilities for international cooperation. The Seminar prepared recommendations addressed to Governments, industry and international organizations (ENERGY/SEM.10/2).

24. The ECE/UNDP project on International Cooperative Research on Low-Calorie Fuel Technology, which concluded on 31 December 1991, was applicable to the Mediterranean region. It aimed at the development of technologies for the efficient and environmentally-sound utilization of brown coal and lignite, thereby enhancing the contribution of indigenous sources of energy to domestic needs. Its outputs consisted of coordinated research between relevant specialized institutes. Study tours were organized as well as training courses, fellowships, ad hoc meetings and workshops. The Project's Steering Committee concluded its work with proposals to ECE and UNDP for international programmes on fluidized-bed gasification of brown coal and lignite, low-NO_x burners and pre-combustion preparation of solid fuels.

25. An ad hoc meeting in March 1991 considered an interregional project entitled "Global Energy Efficiency 21". This project would be submitted to UNCED for approval and is aimed at enhancing the planning, administrative, economic, technical and financial capacities of developing countries to develop and implement efficient energy systems themselves; It would be implemented by the relevant regional commissions.

Agriculture and Timber

26. The Working Party on the Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, through its Meetings of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, of Dry and Dried Produce and of Potatoes, deals with produce of considerable economic and commercial importance to countries in the Mediterranean, members of ECE, ECA and ESCWA, which submit to ECE regular requests for standards and related information. In this connection, the publication in January 1992 of UN/ECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, a compilation of all the standards for these products which have been approved by the Working Party, is noteworthy. A Symposium on Product Quality in the Agri-Food Sector will be held in Spain in October 1992.

27. A Seminar on Forest Fire Prevention, Land Use and People was held in Greece in October/November 1991, at which the socio-economic problems associated with forest fires, which are of particular concern to the high risk

countries of the Mediterranean basin, received particular attention. The International Forest Fire News is published twice a year and the Forest Fire Statistics annually. Given the high incidence of fires and the considerable damage caused to forests in the Mediterranean countries, these publications are of considerable value to them.

28. In January 1992 the Timber Committee considered its activities aimed specifically at Mediterranean countries. It decided to continue the work on trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe. This includes cooperation with the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions ("Silva Mediterranea"). Special attention is being paid to the cork sector, in the context of the fifth long-term European timber trends and prospects study (ETTS V). A study tour on forestry questions was hosted by Portugal in May 1991 (TIM/R.193).

Human Settlements

29. The Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe, held in Ankara (Turkey) in April 1991 held an in-depth discussion on "Regeneration and Adaptation of Urban Space in Response to the Dynamics of Development Specific to the Mediterranean Countries". The next meeting will take place in Seville (Spain) in October 1992 on the theme "Urban Design and architecture with respect to Mediterranean climate and sustainable development".

Industry and Technology

30. A study tour of the chemical industry in Turkey (October 1991) attracted the participation of several experts from Mediterranean countries. The study tour and workshop on the rational use of raw materials and energy in the chemical industry, to be held in Romania in September 1992, is of interest to experts from a number of Mediterranean countries.

31. Several Mediterranean countries prepared monographs for the forum discussion on the organization and management of R & D and economies in transition during the nineteenth session of the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology. A number of Mediterranean countries have contributed to the inventory of safety guidelines in biotechnology.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1263
28 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 5)

ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TO IMPLEMENT THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) AND OTHER CSCE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE CHARTER OF PARIS FOR A NEW EUROPE

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. Below is a short account of on-going and envisaged activities of ECE of relevance to the provisions of the Documents of the CSCE meetings in Vienna (1986, follow-up meeting), Sofia (1989, on protection of the environment), Bonn (1990, on economic cooperation), and Palma de Mallorca (1990, on the Mediterranean), as well as the Paris Charter for a New Europe (1990).

Trade and industrial cooperation

2. The Bonn Conference recognized the particular importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in economic cooperation and decided to pay special attention to the creation of a competitive business environment conducive to their development. The Committee on the Development of Trade invited the secretariat to prepare a study on the role of SMEs in the Economies in Transition and the promotion of conditions for their greater participation in interregional trade. The Committee suggested the convening of a workshop in 1992 on the implications of privatization, including the role of SMEs for international trade and investment.

GE.92-20579/6488a

3. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a note on the organization of information sources relevant to trade and investment activities in the economies in transition needed by business operators.

4. The growing importance of services in international trade and economic development was noted by the Vienna Meeting. In 1991 the secretariat prepared a note on the efforts needed to extend and improve the data base on east-west service transactions. The Committee on the Development of Trade invited the secretariat to survey the work of international organizations (e.g. GATT, IMF, UNCTC) to find out whether they include service transactions involving the economies in transition and to draw up an inventory of what data on service transactions are available in member countries and the methodologies used to compile them.

5. The Bonn Conference agreed to foster a favourable climate for investment and different forms of industrial cooperation. It recognized the importance of comprehensive information on legal provisions in host countries for foreign investment, joint ventures and other forms of cooperation, including those concerning foreign staff.

6. In 1992 a Guide on Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry was published. A study on promoting foreign direct investment in the ECE region will also be published in 1992. A Statistical Survey of Joint Ventures Registered in the Countries in Transition was submitted to the Committee on the Development of Trade in December 1991. Work will continue on issues related to foreign direct investments including difficulties experienced in investment flows such as legislative factors and inconvertibility of currencies. A seminar on the promotion of foreign direct investments will be organized in the near future. The secretariat will also prepare a comparative analysis of laws and regulations related to privatization and foreign investment in the economies in transition. A quarterly East-West Joint Ventures News is published by the secretariat. In 1992 this newsletter will change its title to East-West Investment News and will cover also legal and economic conditions for foreign investment in western market economies.

7. The Bonn Conference confirmed the importance of marketing and product promotion as a means of developing trade and industrial and economic cooperation. The holding of a workshop on this topic in Malta in 1992 is being considered.

8. The trade facilitation activities of the ECE, of which the EDIFACT project is the most vivid example, continues to have general support and encouragement from the CSCE participating States. At the Bonn Conference they explicitly stressed the importance of trade facilitation and electronic data interchange for their trade relations. The global importance of UN/EDIFACT has received international recognition and the development, monitoring and promotion of these standards are being actively implemented by ECE.

Environment

9. The Sofia Meeting agreed on concrete proposals for enhanced cooperation on the environment. It gave new impetus to regional cooperation through ECE, particularly regarding industrial accidents and transboundary waters. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Vienna and Sofia Meetings a Convention on

Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes have been finalized for adoption and signature in early 1992.

10. The Palma Meeting agreed to reinforce, in accordance with the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), cooperative activities on air quality problems, including those associated with photochemical ozone and other secondary pollutants. It proposed that the experience of the ECE and other relevant organizations and institutions should be utilized in the setting up of a coordinated information system on the state of the environment and natural resources as well as in promoting exchange of information in the Mediterranean area.

11. The Charter of Paris welcomed the operational activities, studies and policy reviews in various international organizations engaged in the protection of the environment, such as UNEP, ECE and OECD and emphasized the need to strengthen their cooperation and their efficient coordination.

12. In November 1991 the Executive Body for the Convention on LRTAP established a Working Group on Strategies which will prepare a draft protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993. European maps on critical loads for total acidity and sulphur and their exceedances were made available in 1991. Task forces on emissions of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants will work to substantiate information as a basis for elements of possible protocols by 1994.

13. In the light of the understanding reached at the Sofia Meeting and the Paris Summit, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, in cooperation with OECD, are promoting regional cooperation for the management of hazardous chemicals.

14. A number of other ECE activities are directly related to the CSCE process. They focus on the economic, legal and monitoring aspects of the environment.

15. A Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was adopted in Espoo (Finland) in March 1991 and signed by 28 ECE countries and the European Community.

16. The Geneva Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes was signed on 19 November 1991 by 21 Parties to the Convention on LRTAP.

17. A research colloqium on management and implementation of ecological measures in human settlements was held in Copenhagen (Denmark) in September 1991 under the auspices of the Committee on Human Settlements and a workshop on sustainable development of human settlements will be held in Orebro (Sweden) on 3-6 May 1992.

Statistics

18. The Conference of European Statisticians is focusing on transition, integration and development projects in the light of the relevant provisions of the Vienna Meeting, the Bonn Conference and the Paris Summit. A number of workshops and consultations for national statistical offices in transition

countries have been organized in collaboration with the World Bank, the IMF and the OECD and with statistical experts in market economy countries. Advice is provided for projects elaborated by national statistical offices in transition countries.

19. The Palma Meeting expressed the view that a meeting of statistical offices of the Mediterranean countries could be convened by an appropriate institution, such as the Conference of European Statisticians, to discuss harmonization of statistical methods and to consider possible assistance in the field of statistics. The Conference at its 1991 session considered convening such a meeting in Italy in October 1992.

20. In the Concluding Documents of the Vienna and Bonn Meetings, the participating States agreed to promote comprehensive cooperation between their statistical services in the bilateral and multilateral context and within the framework of the ECE in order, inter alia, to improve the international comparability of statistics. Seven workshops for national statistical offices in transition from a centrally planned to a market economy were organized, in order to improve the comparability of economic statistics.

Transport

21. The Vienna Concluding Document and the Charter of Paris recognized the important role of transport in economic and social development. The Vienna Concluding Document explicitly welcomed the work done by ECE in this respect. Particular attention was drawn to questions of multimodal transport networks, combined transport, transit flows and the simplification of transport documents. In the fields of transport safety, vehicle noise and pollution control the work of the ECE is also recognized by the Governments.

22. The Palma Meeting emphasized the importance of a rational development of transport infrastructure and the usefulness of the analysis of the current and potential transport flows. The fruitful work of the ECE and UNDP and the appropriateness of continuing this activity were noted.

23. The ECE is continuing its activities on the promotion of an all-European transport system including action to increase the efficiency of such a system while limiting the impact of transport on the environment. It continued to serve as Executing Agency for the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) project, and the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) project.

Economic analysis

24. Economic analysis provided by the ECE secretariat, notably in respect of the developments in the transition countries and economic relations between them and the developed market economies, has long been considered as an important contribution to the understanding of the economic developments in the ECE region.

25. In addition to the analysis of current economic developments and short-term prospects, the secretariat has recently provided a comprehensive review of the economic reforms and/or the transition to the market system in central and eastern Europe. After the first volume, Economic Reforms in the European Centrally Planned Economies, issued almost a year before the revolutionary

events began, another volume, entitled Reforms in Foreign Economic Relations of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, was published in early 1991. Both volumes provide a comprehensive insight into the problems and alternative paths of economic reforms, based on combined efforts of prominent economists of the western and the transition countries.

26. The Senior Economic Advisers also addressed the issue of economic reforms in May 1991 and, after a careful insight into the subject, adopted brief recommendations on the contents and sequencing of the reforms required for a successful transition to the market system. A first roundtable, focusing on the theme Economic Reforms and their Significance for All-European Cooperation, was organized in 1990 and another in 1991 was devoted to Five Years of Perestroika - Results, Problems, Prospects. The transcripts of both roundtables have been published in the series UN/ECE Discussion Papers.

Energy

27. In the Charter of Paris, the participating States declared that they "are determined to give the necessary impetus to cooperation among States in the field of energy ... and welcome in particular practical steps to create optimal conditions for the economic and rational use of energy resources, with due regard to environmental considerations".

28. The participating States at the Bonn Conference considered that they should extend and deepen their cooperation in the field of energy and raw-materials-saving techniques and would also cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally in the field of hydrocarbon technologies, solid fuels and renewable energies, and processes for the separation of waste components and their recyling. The Paris Summit attached priority to the introduction of clean and low-waste technology. The Palma Meeting encouraged the exchange of information and regional cooperation in the field of solar and wind energy.

29. These provisions have given added importance to ECE's work in the field of energy, such as:

- the Project "Energy Efficiency 2000" which aims at reducing the energy efficiency gap between member States, by organizing information campaigns and business contacts on the occasion of trade fairs, conventions and symposia bringing together businessmen, trade officials, bankers, engineers and energy managers, with a focus on energy efficient technologies and management practices.

- the UNDP/ECE Project on "Solar Applications and Efficient Building Design", was concluded at the end of 1991;

- the UNDP/ECE Inter-Country Project on International Cooperative Research on Low-Calorie Solid Fuel Technologies, which concluded at the end of 1991, provided for a transfer of information on the clean combustion, particularly of low-grade coals by means of workshops, technical visits and multi-country, cooperative research programmes;

- a Seminar on Solar Power Systems, held in Alushta (Ukraine) in April 1991, which reviewed the state of the art of photovoltaic systems and of international cooperation in this field.

Science and Technology

30. The Vienna and Bonn Meetings and the Berlin Meeting of the CSCE Council emphasized the importance of cooperation in science and technology and underlined that this was now an important pillar of the CSCE. At the Paris Summit, the participating States agreed to review progress periodically and give new impulses in these fields.

31. In recent years, science and technology has taken an increasingly important place in the activities of virtually all the ECE subsidary bodies. The Senior Advisers on Science and Technology are the focal point for the exchange of information on current developments in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions. They held a forum discussion on the organization of R & D and economies in transition in September 1991. Their next quadrennial review of changes in national science and technology policies will be carried out in 1992. A forum discussion will be held in September 1992 on the managerial aspects and the relationship between national and federal/regional bodies, including governmental and non-governmental bodies, in promoting innovation.

32. The Vienna Meeting considered it desirable to enhance the exchange of information on laws and regulations relating to safety aspects of genetic engineering and to facilitate consultations and exchange of information on safety guidelines. A series of monographs concerning safety guidelines in biotechnology submitted by Governments and international organizations were issued.

Co-operation in other areas

33. Work is underway in ECE in other areas of cooperation identified in the Vienna Concluding Document and the Charter of Paris. For example, research is being conducted on the economic importance of tourism, the problem of migrant workers and their families and vocational training.

34. A Symposium on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development was organized in Luxembourg in October 1991. This project is implemented in close cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Commission of the European Communities. A follow-up meeting was held in the United Kingdom (1991) and two others will be held in France and Hungary in 1993.

35. The Bonn Concluding Document recognized the importance of town planning in redressing urban problems caused by substantial deterioration in the quality of life, as well as ensuring the possibility of citizens to freely take part in economic, political, social and cultural life. The Committee on Human Settlements will address the problems of urban ecology at the Seventh Conference on Urban and Regional Research in 1992. The Committee also initiated projects on planning aspects in transition countries and with respect to human settlements sustainable development.

36. The Concluding Document of the Bonn Conference affirmed the importance of cooperation in agro-industry and food-processing. The Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation finalized in 1991 a study on food-processing machinery, including packaging techniques, followed by a study tour of Hungarian food-processing industry in October 1991.

37. The general principles and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents are also relevant to the activities of the Committee on Agriculture and the Timber Committee. For example, various activities are being undertaken in the field of forest fire prevention and control. Statistics on forest fires are collected and disseminated regularly and International Forest Fire News is issued twice yearly. In 1991 a seminar was held in Greece on forest fire prevention, land use and people, to find solutions to the socio-economic factors associated with the incidence of forest fires, especially in Mediterranean countries.

* * *

38. At the Prague Meeting of the CSCE Council in January 1992 the Ministers of the participating States stressed that "the challenges facing Europe call for multifaceted forms of cooperation, and a close relationship among European, transatlantic and other international institutions and organizations, drawing as appropriate upon their respective competences". They also requested their representatives at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to study further ways and means of fostering such cooperation with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and to avoid duplication.

39. At the same Meeting the Ministers agreed to establish an Economic Forum within the framework of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO):

a) to give political stimulus to the dialogue on the topics of the transition to and development of free-market economies,

b) to suggest practical efforts for the development of free-market systems and economic cooperation, and

c) to encourage activities already underway within organizations such as OECD, EIB, EBRD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

40. The Forum will meet periodically in Prague and can invite contributions to its meetings by those European and transatlantic organizations relevant to the subject under discussion. The first meeting would be in early 1993.

41. The Ministers also agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting will consider appropriate further measures to promote discussions in the framework of the CSCE on economic cooperation and related topics.

42. In the Prague Document there is a special chapter on CSCE relationship with international organizations which specifies that ECE and some other European and transatlantic organizations will be invited to make contributions on the basis of CSCE precedent and practice to specialized CSCE Meetings where they have relevant expertise. In particular it states that "to ensure full coordination, the Ministers would welcome it if the above organizations would inform the CSCE Secretariat annually of their current work programme and of the facilities available for work relevant to the CSCE". The secretariat will comply with this request and provide on a regular basis the relevant materials to the CSCE secretariat in Prague.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1264
23 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 6)

THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN REGARD TO COOPERATION IN THE ECE REGION, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF COMMISSION DECISION O (45)

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared to assist the Commission in its consideration, under agenda item 6, of the prospective activities of the Commission with particular regard to the provisions of decision O (45).

2. Recalling that in paragraph 1 of decision O (45) the Commission decided on the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis, and that at its regular forty-fifth session the Commission also designated as a general priority its activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and the global economy, the future work and activities of the Commission are presented in a format that reflects this decision. By its decisions D (42) and I (43) the Commission designated the transport of dangerous goods and EDIFACT respectively as priority tasks. By its decisions G (44) and H (45) it designated sustainable development as a guiding principle for all its relevant activities.

GE.92-20865 /7381a

3. The Commission will review its activities and the implementation of its priorities since the forty-sixth session under agenda item 2(a). The consideration of priority activities under agenda item 6 is intended to be prospective rather than retrospective.

4. A detailed account of the Commission's work designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and to integrate them into the European and global economy is contained in documents E/ECE/1254 and 1258.

Environment

5. Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems meeting at ministerial level on 25 February 1991 (ECE/ENVWA/19), Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (E/ECE/1250) will strive for the entry into force of this Convention as soon as possible and seek to implement the Convention to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force. The second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention to be convened in December 1992 is expected in particular to make recommendations as regards further measures for the interim implementation of the Convention.

6. Conscious of the special importance the Commission attaches to the elaboration of regional legal instruments in the field of environment (decision 0 (45), paragraph 2 I(a)) the Senior Advisers completed the elaboration of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. These Conventions were adopted by the Senior Advisers at their resumed fifth session at Ministerial level in Helsinki (Finland) on 17 and 18 March 1992, and signed by a large number of Governments on that occasion. (see also E/ECE/1252/Rev.1)

7. The Senior Advisers will pay special attention to activities which could support environmentally sound development in countries in transition (ECE/ENVWA/24, Annex II, programme elements 03.1.1; 03.1.2; 03.1.3; 03.1.4 and 03.4.5).

8. The Senior Advisers are expected to adopt, at their next session, inter alia, a regional strategy on integrated waste management; recommendations to ECE Governments on water-quality objectives and criteria; and a code of practice on ecosystems-based water management.

9. The Senior Advisers will adopt a detailed programme for the systematic and analytic reviewing of the performance of ECE countries non-members of OECD in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and regional commitments to be undertaken in close cooperation with OECD. The Senior Advisers will also prepare initial elements of an evolving environmental programme for Europe and elements for a Ministerial Declaration as their contribution to a Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Switzerland in winter 1992/1993.

10. At the ninth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution it was agreed that the Working Group on Strategies will, as a first priority, prepare a draft protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993. A new Task Force on Economic

Aspects of Abatement Strategies will support the Working Group in the practical development of cost-effective agreements. A new Working Group on Technology will, inter alia, address issues on exchange of technology.

11. Since the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes entered into force on 14 February 1991, work will be carried out on further steps to reduce national annual emissions or their transboundary fluxes (article 2) as well as consideration of procedures to create more favourable conditions for the exchange of technology to reduce emission of NO_x (article 3).

12. Substantive work began in 1991 concerning persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals with a view to possible future protocols on these issues. Relevant Task Forces will work towards providing information by 1994 as a basis for elements of such protocols. The critical load concept is expected to be considered as an integral part in negotiations of abatement strategies for various air pollutants of concern to the Executive Body.

13. In support of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes, adopted in 1991, the EMEP monitoring programme will be expanded in 1992 to include sampling and analysis of selected volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Transport

14. Considering the relevant Commission decisions, in particular D (45), O (45) and F (46), the Inland Transport Committee discussed at its fifty-fourth session future work and activities. In the light of the development of a single European market and the changes in central and eastern Europe, the Committee will consider the overall European transport situation. In this connection it will participate, together with other international organizations and institutions, in the elaboration of a European transport concept and of detailed, action-oriented projects to implement it as contained in the Prague Declaration on an all-European transport policy. To this end, it will cooperate with other international organizations in the development of a European infrastructure transport system. This work, among others, will serve as a basis for a harmonized European transport network able to accommodate the significant traffic increase which is expected in Europe. In this respect the decision by the Committee to undertake a study on main European inland waterways of international importance through the elaboration of a draft European Agreement (AGN) is of special importance. Emphasis will also be placed on infrastructure needs for the different transport modes, in particular in central and east European countries.

15. Another important future task will be the further development of intermodal transport, which has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years as a result of increasing demands for enviromentally sound transport and the limits on road transport crossing the Alps. The implementation of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) will assist in the redistribution of transport demand between the individual modes.

16. The development and improvement of conventions and agreements governing international transport will continue to be of importance. Particular attention will be given to updating regulations and provisions for the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland water. The transport of dangerous goods will assume greater significance in the coming years as society insists upon stricter safety and environmental controls. The agreement governing the harmonization of the construction of motor vehicles is being revised to admit, among others, the European Community as a Party to it and to extend its application to cover countries beyond the ECE region. Special attention is also paid to improving the conditions for border-crossing in international transport by rail on a country-by-country basis, along the lines of existing international transport regulations.

17. The ECE will contribute to traffic safety by implementation of the revised Conventions on Road Traffic and Signs and Signals and raising public awareness through its next international campaign on road safety. The impact of transport infrastructure and operation on the environment is of increasing concern to ECE Governments. Work on reducing air and noise pollution as well as visual intrusion will continue, and cooperation with other Principal Subsidiary Bodies and other international organizations will be strengthened. Finally environmental and social concerns will be taken increasingly into account when discussing economic considerations of transport. Thus the public's concern and the level of acceptance of different nuisances created by transport will be taken fully into account.

18. Work will continue on the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project under a funding agreement between the TEM countries and ECE as the Executing Agency. The Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project will be a UNDP/ECE project until the end of 1992. The TER Governments are considering the modalities of their future cooperation in the context of the project. Work will continue to increase the number of States participating in both projects and to develop east-west axes in addition to existing dimensions.

19. The establishment of an electronic data bank in the ECE will ensure that the Governments and organizations concerned have access to updated information on conventions, agreements and regulations. The necessary hardware and software have been acquired and staff are being trained to carry out this work.

20. Further workshops are planned for 1992 and 1993 aimed at assisting countries of central and eastern Europe in their transition from a centrally-planned to a market economy in the field of road, rail, inland waterway and combined transport.

Statistics

21. The Conference of European Statisticians will continue to develop its central role for cooperation among international organizations through joint activities in the development of statistical methodology, harmonized questionnaires and shared data collection. Coordinated activities in statistical methodological development will be ensured by joint meetings.

22. The secretariat will strengthen its support to the development and implementation of up-to-date statistical information technology. In this framework the activities dealing with the preparation of methodological

recommendations and standards for description of statistical information will have to be pursued as a necessary condition for efficient development of integrated statistical networking. The ECE will further accelerate its participation in the design of EDI for statistics in the group MD6 of the Western European EDIFACT Board. This will include the coordination in this work as it relates to transition countries in central and eastern Europe.

23. With regard to the European Comparison Programme a Consultation will be held in 1992 to discuss the preliminary results of the comparisons for 1990 in Group II, and the preparatory work for the 1993 round. The bilateral comparison with Austria will be retained as basic methodological approach, but further methodological development is needed with regard to the treatment of quality differences and to the possible rise of a multilateral comparison approach.

24. In the field of social and demographic statistics, work will focus on the preparation of publications dealing with international migration among countries in the ECE region and with statistics of women. A draft set of regional recommendations for housing and building statistics will also be prepared.

25. A ministerial meeting in Dobris Castle (CSFR) in June 1991 requested the preparation of a pan-European state-of-the-environment report by the European Community, in cooperation with the ECE. The decision also required assistance to the project by individual European countries and relevant international organizations, including UNEP, OECD, the Council of Europe, and IUCN.

26. In recent months, there has been a clear revival of interest in aggregate environmental indicators. The work session on economic statistics of the environment recommended that the Conference give this project higher priority. The Bureau of the Conference felt that this work needed to be resumed in cooperation with other international institutions such as the OECD.

27. In addition, work will be devoted to the development of draft classifications regarding statistics on environmental expenditures and wastes in order to arrive at a single ECE/EUROSTAT classification in these fields.

Trade

(a) Trade facilitation

28. In the years to come, trade facilitation will have to address issues raised by the need to maintain the appropriate balance between facilitation and regulation, as tighter regulations might have to be enforced, for example to protect the environment (transport of dangerous goods and hazardous wastes) or to ensure the protection of health (control of illicit drugs) or international security (arms control). Such regulatory measures should not, however, create barriers to legitimate international trade. To attain that objective, intergovernmental and inter-organizational cooperation will continue to be needed. Past experience has shown that the ECE has built up a network of activities and contacts which enable it to promote effectively such cooperation.

29. Activities dealing with the commercial and legal aspects of trade facilitation should aim at eliminating any constraints on international trade (with particular reference to the use of EDI). This could be achieved by ECE undertaking coordinating action with all interested parties and, when necessary, carrying out specific projects.

30. Although initially developed to cater for trade data interchange, EDIFACT can now be applied to any form of information interchange in fields which are not necessarily connected to international trade. This will raise the question of the possible enlargement of the scope of activity of ECE EDIFACT-related work to additional fields of application once the main requirements of international trade transactions have been met.

31. Nevertheless, in the years to come message development will remain an important component of EDIFACT work. In view of the increasing number of countries not members of the ECE involved in such development work, the Commission may have to enlarge its coordinating and "focal-point" activities to avoid divergencies in standards.

32. EDIFACT implementation, in particular for ECE member countries which are technically less advanced, will require the preparation of educational material, manuals, etc. and the provision of technical expertise - notably to the economies in transition.

33. Since the effective application of EDIFACT will be on a global scale, the five regional commissions with the collaboration of UNCTAD will continue to foster interregional cooperation in the field of trade facilitation, notably EDIFACT.

(b) Trade

34. The Committee on the Development of Trade will maintain its emphasis on activities which respond directly to the needs of member countries in transition in three areas: trade policy measures, industrial cooperation and preparation of guides on drafting international business contracts. In the first area, work will concentrate on links between trade and investment; encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in international trade; and organizing workshops on issues related to the above themes. In the area of industrial cooperation, emphasis will be placed on the means of favouring conditions for foreign direct investments in economies in transition. Priority will be devoted to legal issues related to the problems of the privatization of enterprises.

Economic analysis

35. The economic analysis of the secretariat will focus on current economic developments and prospects of central and east European countries and their relationship to the structural and institutional change required for the transition to the market system. The Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 will highlight the economic disintegration and political fragmentation of the former Soviet Union and creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as their impact on the former members of the Union and other countries. Economic developments in several successor states of the former Soviet Union

will be presented for the first time. Special chapters will be devoted to the hard core of the transition to the market system - property rights and privatization, on the one hand, and potential east-west migration on the other.

36. To the extent possible, the secretariat will pay due attention to the ongoing economic integration in Europe and North America, in particular to the creation of the EC single market. Another area of special concern, also to be reflected in the work of the Senior Economic Advisers, will be international trade and structural change, in particular with respect to the impact of the ongoing economic reforms on trade performance of central and east European countries and its significance for the size and forms of western support to the transition countries. The secretariat will continue its efforts to consider the interrelationship between environmental and economic aspects of developments in the region, especially in respect of the economies in transition.

37. Within the programme recently agreed upon with UNFPA for the period 1992-1995, and with the financial support of UNFPA, the secretariat will continue research and analysis on a number of demographic issues, including international migration in the region, with special emphasis on potential migration from the transition to the market economies. The ECE, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, will organize a European Population Conference in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993 as a regional contribution to the World Population Conference in 1994.

Energy

38. The energy programme will focus on the rational use of energy, sustainable energy developments and assistance to countries in transition. The project "Energy Efficiency 2000" entered into its operational phase in mid-1991. The project will increase contacts on trade and cooperation in energy-efficient technologies on the occasion of trade fairs, technical meetings and annual business conventions. It will organize three more seminars and establish listings of selected technologies, products, services, pilot and demonstration programmes.

39. Issues of energy economy and efficiency in the fields of coal, gas and electric power will continue to receive high attention, for example projects to develop more efficient coal-mining systems, enhance technical progress in opencast mines, improve the rational use of gas and elaborate a compendium on efficient technologies for new and renewable sources of energy.

40. The ECE energy sub-programme will focus on six priorities: the energy reforms in central and eastern Europe; the rational use of energy efficiency and conservation; the interface between energy and the environment; energy policies and prospects, and related statistics and projections; energy demand and supply for sustainable development; energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure. The issue of sustainable energy development will continue to receive high attention throughout these areas.

41. Assistance to countries in transition will be accorded the highest attention, and a study "Energy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe - the Second Year" will be finalized in 1992. Workshops will be held on the recovery and use of coalbed methane; on gas tariffs and energy policy; on electric

power tariffs; on the market adaptation of coal industries; on the market adaptation of energy-intensive industries; and on the possibilities of refurbishing fossil-fired power stations, taking into account environmental requirements.

42. Energy economy and efficiency is one of the priorities of the work of the Committee. A comparative analysis of the different labelling systems for selected internationally-traded appliances will be undertaken. Furthermore, conservation developments and policies in the ECE region will be reviewed. An Ad hoc Meeting on Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones in the Russian Federation will be held in May 1992; a Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe is planned for 8-12 February 1993.

Agriculture

43. The Committee on Agriculture in March 1992 reaffirmed the reorientation of its activities towards the Commission's priority areas. The main areas of activity are economic analysis of the agri-food sector; agriculture and the environment; standardization of perishable produce and quality developments; and food and agricultural statistics. All these include components related directly to the Commission's guiding principle of sustainable development, which is the basis for all agricultural activities, and support for the economies in transition of central and eastern Europe. Special attention is being given to the transformation of collective farms into viable market-oriented units, quality developments and concepts for agricultural products and a number of projects aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Timber

44. The Timber Committee in January 1992 realigned its programme of work to correspond more fully with the Commission's priority areas and guiding principles. Programme activities now consist of analysis of developments for forestry and forest products in the long-, medium- and short-term; collection, dissemination and improvement of forest and forest products statistics; forest technology, management and training (jointly with FAO and ILO); issues related to a sound and sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector; assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe; and issues accorded special priority by the Commission or the Committee. Particular emphasis will be given to the completion of the forest resource assessment of temperate zones, preparations for the fifth European Timber Trends and Prospects study and developing the programme of workshops and other activities in support of the economies in transition.

Human settlements

45. The Committee on Human Settlements restructured its programme of owrk into two main categories: programme elements supporting sustainable human settlements development and elements supporting the process of socio-economic transition. The work will focus on housing issues, urban renewal and modernization, planning and management of sustainable human settlements, and the development of human settlements statistics in cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians. Following the six workshops already

held on housing, urban renewal and building problems in countries in transition, workshops on Social Housing and on Land Registration Systems will be organized in 1992. The two other workshops to be held in 1992 will deal with questions of sustainable human settlements development and environmental impact assessment as related to land-use planning. A second-stage series of housing workshops is planned to start in 1993 concerning the country evaluations on housing issues. A summary report of the workshops already held, Housing Policy Guidelines, will be published by the end of 1992 to ease the dissemination of information and training within countries.

Industry and technology

46. Future work relating to industry will focus on three principal areas, namely statistics, issues of relevance to economies in transition and sustainable development. In the further development of statistics, emphasis will be placed on cooperation with other international organizations, in particular OECD, on all matters relating to statistics, on reducing the reporting burden on government statistical offices and on improving the methods used in the collection of data for the iron and steel industry, the chemical industry and the engineering industries and automation. Efforts will also be made to improve the ECE data base in these sectors and make it more readily available to users, in particular, those in Governments.

47. Workshops to assist economies in transition will deal with restructuring, privatization, quality control and greater efficiency in the steel and chemical industries. The third workshop on rehabilitation engineering to be held in Trebon (CSFR) in 1992 will focus on rehabilitation services in the transition countries.

48. With regard to sustainable development, work will focus on international standards for environmental protection and energy efficiency, steel-product quality, the use of scrap, substitutes in detergents, the management of plastic wastes and low-waste processes. The outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable development in the Chemical Industry and, in particular, the conclusions of that meeting will be considered by the Working Party on the Chemical Industry. Seminars will be organized on new materials, on foundry production and ecology, on metallurgy and ecology and on energy efficiency standards and labelling systems.

49. In the field of science and technology, emphasis will be placed on changes in national science and technology policies, and promotion of innovations, in particular in the economies in transition. Efforts will be made, in cooperation with OECD, to provide a basis for the collection of statistics relating to science and technology which can be used as science and technology indicators in these countries. Work will also continue on the Inventory of Safety Guidelines in Biotechnology.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1265
26 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 7)

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The draft programme of work of the Commission for 1992-1996 is submitted (in Annex I) for the Commission's consideration and approval pursuant to operative paragraph 5(a) of its resolution 5 (XXIV).

2. The amendments to the programme of work approved by the Commission at its forty-seventh session will be incorporated by the secretariat in the text which will appear as Annex IV to the Commission's Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council.

3. In the case of the programme of work of the Commission itself (programme category 00), a draft has been prepared containing detailed descriptions of the programme elements, since this programme category is subject to review by the Commission at its annual session (Annex II). In certain cases these descriptions will have to be completed by the Executive Secretary after the forty-seventh session of the Commission in order to reflect the relevant resolutions and other decisions which will be adopted at that session. Such programme elements are annotated: "To be completed as may be necessary".

4. In the framework of the procedures for prior consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system pursuant to Council resolution 1549 (XLIX), and in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of work, the Executive Secretary has offered his comments, as in the past, to the executive heads of those organizations who have transmitted to him their programmes of

work. An account of the cooperation which has taken place during the past year between the ECE and the specialized agencies and other international organizations and institutions is given in the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1255.

5. The Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997 was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Economic Commission for Europe has held consultations concerning a revision of the Plan to reflect the new realities in the ECE region which have developed since the Plan was formulated in 1989. The Executive Secretary has, after consultation with ECE Governments, submitted proposals for the revision of the Plan to the Secretary-General.

6. With regard to the ECE pattern of meetings, the General Assembly in its resolution 46/190 approved the Calendar of Conferences and Meetings for 1992, which contains provision for the holding of the forty-seventh session of the Commission in April 1992. The following tentative schedule for the regular meetings of its Principal Subsidiary Bodies has been established, in accordance with the decisions taken by those bodies, for the period between the forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Commission.

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	1-4 June	1992
Conference of European Statisticians	15-19 June	
Committee on Human Settlements	14-17 September	
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology	23-25 September	
Timber Committee	19-22 October	
Committee on Energy	10-13 November	
Committee on the Development of Trade	8-10 December	
Inland Transport Committee	1-5 February	1993
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems	22-26 February	
Committee on Agriculture	8-11 March	

Meetings and study tours

7. In 1991 the ECE held a total of 671 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations. Of these half-days of meetings, 20 were held outside Geneva, 37 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods and 48 were for meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. In addition 113 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities. For purposes of comparison the equivalent figures for the period 1985-1991 are given below:

	Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva Host authorities interpretation
1985	778	68	124
1986	669	80	132
1987	685	60	123
1988	638	55	131
1989	639	95	101
1990	699	73	91
1991	651	20	113

8. The meetings held outside Geneva in 1991 under the auspices of the Commission took place at the invitation of the Governments of the following countries: Austria (3); Canada (1); Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (1); Denmark (2); Finland (1); Germany (1); Greece (2); Hungary (1); Italy (2); Luxembourg (1); Netherlands (2); Norway (2); Poland (2); Romania (1); Switzerland (1); Turkey (1); Ukraine (2); USSR (1); Yugoslavia (1).

9. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that such meetings are organized only if the subsidiary body concerned has accepted an invitation extended by the host Government and that this decision is clearly reflected in the report of the body concerned. Moreover, the host Government is obliged, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/140 (I), to bear the additional costs of meetings attributable to the venue being away from the Commission's headquarters.

10. Study tours were organized during 1991 in each of the following countries: France; Hungary; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Turkey.

11. In the period since the forty-sixth session, and in accordance with decisions D (45) and O (45), 42 workshops have been held to assist countries in transition to a market economy. These workshops are usually informal meetings with facilities and support provided by host Governments and/or sponsoring organizations. (See E/ECE/1254) Workshops have been held in the following countries in 1990/1: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland.

Documentation

12. The following data (in terms of pages reproduced in the three working languages of the Commission) have been compiled and supplied by the Statistical Unit of the Editorial and Documents Control Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. For purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the period 1985-1991 have been provided:

Year	Total physical pages reproduced in English, French and Russian
1985	106,748
1986	98,504
1987	88,383
1988	84,365
1989	85,899
1990	96,642
1991	94,988

13. Sales of ECE publications generated a gross income of over $ 570,000 in 1991.

ANNEX I

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

Introduction

NOTE: The revised structure of the Commission, reflecting the provisions of decision 0 (45), notably the defintion of priority areas of activity, corresponds to a large extent to the sub-programmes used in the ECE Programme Budget and the Medium-term Plan. This correspondence is intended to provide greater homogeneity and transparency in the monitoring of programme delivery, both by the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission and by the secretariat.

In the course of his consultations with member Governments on the structure of the programme of work, as reflected in the Medium-Term Plan, it was agreed that the order of sub-programmes would begin with the five areas of activity defined by the Commission in decision 0 (45) as priorities. Pending further consideration of the structure of its programme of work by the Commission at its forty-seventh session and by the relevant United Nations organs, the programme of work contained in this annex is presented in the form in which was adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session and has been used by its subsidiary bodies in the course of the year. If this structure is modified by the Commission in the course of its forty-seventh session, this revised structure will be used in the Commission's Annual Report to the Council (see para.2).

CATEGORY	SUB-PROGRAMME
00	Policy and coordination of the work of the Commission
01	Development issues and policies
02	Food and agriculture (including forestry products)
	A. Agriculture
	B. Timber
03	Environment
04	Human settlements
05	Industrial development
	A. Chemicals *
	B. Engineering industries and automation *
	C. Standardization *
	D. Steel *
06	International trade and development finance
	A. Trade facilitation
	B. Trade
07	Energy issues
08	Science and technology
09	Transport, communications and tourism
10	Statistics

*/ Activities in these areas are carried out by Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

[See Annex II]

SUB-PROGRAMME 01 - DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twenty-seventh session (ECE/EC.AD/38, paras. 42-45 and Annex I)

Programme activity 01.1: Exchange of information on economic development

Programme elements

01.1.1 Exchange of information on the development of national economies (1)

01.1.2 Exchange of information on policies, programmes and projections (1)

Programme activity 01.2: Long-term projections and perspectives

Programme elements

01.2.1 Growth conditions in the period 1991-1995 and their long-term implications (5)

01.2.2 Specialized long-term macro-economic data base and further development of the SEM system of macro-economic models (3)

Programme activity 01.3: Selected structural economic issues

Programme elements

01.3.1 Trends and factors in the development of personal and collective services and their impact on economic growth

01.3.2 International trade and structural changes - interregional and intraregional trends of development (2)

01.3.3 Structural changes in employment, labour productivity and working patterns and their impact on economic growth (6)

01.3.4 Sustainable economic development (4)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02 - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY PRODUCTS)

02(A) - AGRICULTURE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, approved by the Committee at its forty-third session (ECE/AGRI/118, paras.50-64 and Annex I)

Programme activity 02(A).1: Economic analysis of the agri-food sector

Programme elements

02(A).1.1 Review of agricultural markets and trade (4)

02(A).1.2 Activities of the Working Party on Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management (1)

02(A).1.3 Prices of agricultural products and inputs (9)

02(A).1.4 National agricultural accounts (13)

Programme activity 02(A).2: Agriculture and the environment

Programme elements

02(A).2.1 Economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture and production of healthy food: survey of current measures, recommendations, guidelines, codes; effective implementation and monitoring of compliance; economic and social impact; elaboration of new measures and regulations (3)

02(A).2.2 Integrated environmentally sound agricultural practices (5)

02(A).2.3 Effects of radionuclear accidents on agriculture and measures for the elimination of their consequences (11)

02(A).2.4 The relation between environmental factors (including pollution by industries and other human activities) and the quantity and quality of agricultural production: economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (8)

Programme activity 02(A).3: Standardization of perishable produce and quality developments

Programme elements

02(A).3.1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (2)

02(A).3.2 Quality of products in the agri-food sector (10)

Programme activity 02(A).4: Food and agricultural statistics

Programme element

02(A).4.1 Improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics (6)

02(A).4.2 Preparation of agricultural censuses (in countries in transition) (7)

02(A).4.3 Preparation of a manual of principles and definitions used in international collections of food and agriculture statistics (12)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER

Authority: Programme of work of the Timber Committee, approved by the Committee at its forty-ninth session (ECE/TIM/59, paras.37-51 and Annex I)

Programme activity 02(B).1: Analysis of developments in the long-, medium- and short-term

Programme elements

02(B).1.1 Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects (2)
02(B).1.2 Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors (7)
02(B).1.3 Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects (1)
02(B).1.4 Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests (6)
02(B).1.5 Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe (22)

Programme activity 02(B).2: Collection, dissemination and improvement of forest and forest products statistics

Programme elements

02(B).2.1 Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the Timber Bulletin (3)
02(B).2.2 Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems) (11)
02(B).2.3 Forest resource assessment (4)
02(B).2.4 Forest fire statistics (17)
02(B).2.5 Productivity in the forest sector (12)
02(B).2.6 Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector (18)

Programme activity 02(B).3: Forest technology, management and training

Programme elements

02(B).3.1 Silvicultural operations and general management aspects (8)
02(B).3.2 Wood harvesting and transport (9)
02(B).3.3 Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers (10)

Programme activity 02(B).4: Issues related to a sound and sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector

Programme elements

02(B).4.1 Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries (21)
02(B).4.2 Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets (20)
02(B).4.3 Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass (15)
02(B).4.4 Competitivity of sawnwood (19)
02(B).4.5 Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products (14)
02(B).4.6 Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests (16)

Programme activity 02(B).5: Assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

02(B).5.1 Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe (5)

Programme activity 02(B).6: Issues accorded special priority by the Commission or the Committee

Programme elements

02(B).6.1 Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster (13)

SUB-PROGRAMME 03 - ENVIRONMENT

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, approved by the Senior Advisers at their fifth session (ECE/ENVWA/24, paras. 66-78 and Annex II).

Programme activity 03.1: Policy issues

Programme elements

- 03.1.1 Environment and economics (A)
- 03.1.2 National environmental performance reviews (B)
- 03.1.3 Improvement of environmental management in countries with economies in transition (A)
- 03.1.4 Bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation of relevance to environmental protection (B)
- 03.1.5 Responsibility and liability (C)
- 03.1.6 Environmental rights and obligations (B)

Programme activity 03.2: Environmental impact assessment

Programme elements

- 03.2.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (A)

Programme activity 03.3: Air pollution problems

Programme elements

- 03.3.1 Activities of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (A)

Programme activity 03.4: Environmental technology and waste management

Programme elements

- 03.4.1 Regional Strategy for Integrated Waste Management (B)
- 03.4.2 Low-waste technology and environmentally sound products (B)
- 03.4.3 Environmental product profiles (B)
- 03.4.4 Application of low-waste technology (C)
- 03.4.5 Management of hazardous chemicals (A)

Programme activity 03.5: Water management

Programme elements

- 03.5.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (A)
- 03.5.2 Guidelines for ecosystems-based water management (B)
- 03.5.3 Water-quality objectives and criteria (A)
- 03.5.4 Prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides (B)

Programme activity 03.6: Industrial accidents

Programme elements

- 03.6.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (A)

SUB-PROGRAMME 04 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, approved by the Committee at its fifty-second session (ECE/HBP/83, paras. 57-64 and Annex II).

Programme activity 04.1: Basic issues

Programme elements

04.1.2 Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies (1)
04.1.2 Housing policies (2)
04.1.3 Development of human settlements statistics (7)
04.1.4 International harmonization of the technical content of building regulations (12)
04.1.5 Promotion of international trade in construction products (16)

Programme activity 04.2: Sustainable development of human settlements

Programme elements

04.2.1 Promotion of international cooperation in the field of urban and regional research (4)
04.2.2 Socio-economic aspects of housing modernization policies (8)
04.2.3 Promotion of energy conservation and a healthy indoor climate in buildings (10)
04.2.4 Planning for sustainable tourism development in the ECE region (11)
04.2.5 Impact of technological change on urban and regional development (technopoles) (13)
04.2.6 Building pathology and prevention of disorders (14)
04.2.7 Human settlements problems in southern Europe (15)
04.2.8 Construction in seismic regions (17)

Programme activity 04.3: Process of socio-economic transition

Programme elements

04.3.1 Handling of real property and land registration for promoting economic development, improvement of urban management and planning (3)
04.3.2 Comprehensive policies for renewal and modernization of human settlements (5)
04.3.3 Housing forecasting and programming (6)
04.3.4 Distributional aspects of housing and taxation policies (9)

SUB-PROGRAMME 05 - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

05(A) - CHEMICALS

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry, approved by the Working Party at its first session (ECE/CHEM/83, para. 36 and Annex II).

Programme activity 05(A).1: Long- and medium-term trends and prospects for sustainable development in the chemical industry

05(A).1.1 Market trends and outlook for selected chemical products (6)
05(A).1.2 Sustainable development in the chemical and related industries (1)

Programme activity 05(A).2: Statistics and current developments in the chemical industry, including international trade

Programme elements
05(A).2.1 Annual Review of the Chemical Industry (3)
05(A).2.2 Studies of national developments in the chemical industry (9)
05(A).2.3 Development of internationally comparable statistics, including those of specialized products (7)
05(A).2.4 Publication of the Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products (8)

Programme activity 05(A).3: Economic issues and information on the chemical industry including assistance to countries in transition

Programme element
05(A).3.1 ECE Directory of the Chemical Industry (2)

Programme activity 05(A).4: Environmental and resource issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements
05(A).4.1 Substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents (10)
05(A).4.2 Management of plastic wastes in the ECE region (4)
05(A).4.3 Waste treatment in industrial parks (5)

Programme activity 05(A).5: Advanced chemical processes and products

Programme elements
None

05(B) - ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, approved by the Working Party at its eleventh session (ECE/ENG.AUT/46, para. 35 and Annex I)

Programme activity 05(B).1: Current medium- and long-term trends and prospects in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries within national, regional and global economies (A)

05(B).1.2 Current developments and prospects in the engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international cooperation in this sector (A)

Programme activity 05(B).2: The role of engineering industries in environmental protection and resource saving

Programme elements

05(B).2.1 Foundry production and ecology (B)

05(B).2.2 Low-waste processes and automated equipment for the production of precision instruments for engineering industries (C)

Programme activity 05(B).3: Special issues in engineering industries and automation of relevance to economies in transition

Programme elements

05(B).3.1 Adjustment of engineering industries in economies in transition (A)

Programme activity 05(B).4: Selected issues in the engineering industries and in automation

Programme elements

05(B).4.1 Food-processing machinery including packaging techniques (C)

05(B).4.2 Rehabilitation engineering (A)

05(B).4.3 New materials and their application in engineering industries (B)

Programme activity 05(B).5: Statistics in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics (A)

05(B).5.2 Publication of the Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products (C)

05(C) - STANDARDIZATION

Authority: Programme of work of Working Party on Standardization Policies, approved by Working Party at its first session (ECE/STAND/34, paras. 26-28 and Annex).

Programme activity 05(C).1: Coordination

Programme elements

05(C).1.1 Identification of problems (6)

05(C).1.2 Regular guidance on programme of work for international standardization through identification of sectors which are of interest to member Governments (7)

05(C).1.3 Preparation and implementation of recommendations (8)

05(C).1.4 Identification of sectors which could lend themselves to priority preparation of multilateral or bilateral agreements for the recognition of test results and of recommendations to that effect to interested Governments and bodies (9)

Programme activity 05(C).2: Harmonization

Programme elements

05(C).2.1 Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels (10)

05(C).2.2 Measures to facilitate the harmonization of principles and practices of standardization and related activities (11)

05(C).2.3 Measures to facilitate the implementation of standards and technical regulations (12)

05(C).2.4 Approval of definitions of terms used internationally in the field of standardization and related activities (13)

05(C).2.5 Presentation of ECE recommended standards and harmonized technical regulations (14)

05(C).2.6 Preparation and implementation of recommendations (15)

Programme activity 05(C).3: Conformity assessment

Programme elements

05(C).3.1 Identification of needs and problems (1)

05(C).3.2 Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements (2)

05(C).3.3 Measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of national certification systems (3)

05(C).3.4 Establishment of recommendations relating to testing activities and laboratory accreditation (4)

05(C).3.5 Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities (5)

05(D) - STEEL

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Steel, approved by the Working Party at its first session (ECE/STEEL/76, paras. 76-79 and Annex II).

Programme activity 05(D).1: Long-term trends and prospects in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).1.1 Long-term prospects in the iron and steel industry (11)

Programme activity 05(D).2: Current developments and medium-term prospects in the iron and steel industry, including international trade

Programme elements

05(D).2.1 Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market (1)

05(D).2.2 Studies of national developments in the iron and steel industry (6)

Programme activity 05(D).3: Economic and technological issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).3.1 The restructuration and management techniques in steel industries in countries in transition towards market-economy conditions (7)

05(D).3.2 Economic aspects of developments in the quality of steel products (10)

Programme activity 05(D).4: Environmental and resource issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).4.1 Metallurgy and ecology (5)

05(D).4.2 Steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap (8)

05(D).4.3 Problems arising from the use of iron and steel scrap (9)

Programme activity 05(D).5: Iron and steel statistics

Programme elements

05(D).5.1 Development of steel statistics (2)

05(D).5.2 Publication of steel statistics (3)

05(D).5.3 Statistics on iron and steel scrap (4)

SUB-PROGRAMME 06 - INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its fortieth session (ECE/TRADE/178, paras. 23-25 and Annex I).

06(A) - TRADE FACILITATION

Programme activity 06(A).1: International trade procedures

Programme elements

06(A).1.1 Facilitation of international trade procedures including documentation, trade data elements and automatic data interchange (1)

06(B) - TRADE

Programme activity 06(B).1: Analysis and review of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems

Programme elements

06(B).1.1 Review of recent and prospective trends, policies and problems affecting intraregional trade, including financing and compensation trade (2)

Programme activity 06(B).2: The development and transparency of market information, marketing and financing techniques and improved business contacts

Programme elements

06(B).2.1 Information relevant to the promotion of trade and industrial cooperation (5)

06(B).2.2 Business opportunities and the promotion and diversification of intraregional trade (7)

Programme activity 06(B).3: Promotion of trade through investment and industrial cooperation

Programme elements

06(B).3.1 Review of recent and prospective trends and policies affecting foreign investment, joint ventures and other forms of industrial cooperation and consideration of means for creating favourable conditions for foreign investment and industrial cooperation (3)

06(B).3.2 Preparation and revision of Guides and General Conditions relating to contracts for international commercial transactions (4)

Programme activity 06(B).4: Trade problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view

Programme elements

06(B).4.1 Review of trade problems specific to these member countries and consideration of action regarding identified problems and measures to improve their trade promotion efforts (6)

SUB-PROGRAMME 07 - ENERGY ISSUES

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Energy, approved by the Committee at its first session (ECE/ENERGY/18, paras. 24-25 and Annex III)

Programme activity 07.1: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

07.1.1 Market adaptation of energy-intensive industies in central and eastern Europe (1)
07.1.2 Transition of coal industry from central planning to market economy
07.1.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe on electric power demand, supply and cooperation
07.1.4 Economic reforms and restructuring in eastern and central Europe - their implications and signficance on gas market and gas industry in the ECE region

Programme activity 07.2 Rational use of energy, efficiency and conservation

Programme elements

07.2.1 Energy Efficiency 2000 (2)
07.2.2 Energy efficiency standards (5)
07.2.3 Energy conservation developments, policies and prospects in the region (7)
07.2.4 Rational use of coal, efficiency and conservation
07.2.5 Energy efficiency in electric power
07.2.6 Rational use of gas, including conservation and efficiency measures

Programme activity 07.3: Interface between energy and the environment

Programme elements

07.3.1 Interface between energy and environment: sustainable development (4)
07.3.2 Techniques for the evaluation of alternative instruments in the light of environmentally sustainable development (9)
07.3.3 Sustainable coal development
07.3.4 Environmental protection related to coal mining and coal utilization
07.3.5 Environmental aspects in electric power
07.3.6 Sustainable development in electric power
07.3.7 Gas industry and the environment, including climate change and sustainable development

Programme activity 07.3: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

07.3.1 Market adaptation of energy-intensive industries in central and eastern Europe
07.3.2 Transition of coal industry from central planning to market economy
07.3.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe on electric power demand, supply and cooperation
07.3.4 Economic reforms and restructuring in eastern and central Europe - their implications and significance for gas markets and the gas industry in the ECE region

Programme activity 07.4: Energy policies and prospects and related statistics and projections

Programme elements

07.4.1 National energy programmes, policies and prospects, and related balances, projections and data banks (3)
07.4.2 Annual Bulletin of Energy Statistics for Europe (11)
07.4.3 Overview of energy activities in ECE (12)

Programme activity 07.5: Energy demand and supply issues for sustainable development

Programme elements

07.5.1 Significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium run (6)
07.5.2 New and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) (8)
07.5.3 Developments in the coal industry
07.5.4 Electric power developments
07.5.5 Developments in the gas industry

Programme activity 07.6: Energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure

Programme elements

07.6.1 Energy trade in the ECE region in the worldwide context (10)
07.6.2 Market trends and trade facilitation in the coal industry
07.6.3 Interconnection of networks in Europe
07.6.4 Gas trade and interconnections, and extension of gas networks in Europe

SUB-PROGRAMME 08 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, approved by the Senior Advisers at their nineteenth session (ECE/SC.TECH/42, paras. 23-25 and Annex I).

Programme activity 08.1: Current developments in science and technology policies

Programme elements

08.1.1 Review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international cooperation (1)

08.2.2 State policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation (3)

Programme activity 08.2: Selected issues in science and technology

Programme elements

08.2.1 Inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology (2)

SUB-PROGRAMME 09 - TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

Authority: Programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/94, paras.128-129 and Add.1)

Programme activity 09.1: Transport trends and economies

Programme elements

09.1.1 Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy (1)
09.1.2 Analysis of specific transport economic issues (2)
09.1.3 Development of transport in the Mediterranean Region (3)

Programme activity 09.2: Road transport

Programme elements

09.2.1 Road transport infrastructure (1)
09.2.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations (1)
09.2.3 Road transport safety (1)
09.2.4 Construction of vehicles (1)

Programme activity 09.3: Rail transport

Programme elements

09.3.1 Rail transport infrastructure (1)
09.3.2 Linking of the European transport network to that of other regions: Railways (3)
09.3.3 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport and facilitation of its operations (1)

Programme activity 09.4: Inland water transport

Programme elements

09.4.1 Inland waterway infrastructure (2)
09.4.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport and facilitation of its operations, including study of legal provisions (2)
09.4.3 Harmonization and improvement of standards for inland navigation vessels (3)
09.4.4 Inland water transport safety (1)

Programme activity 09.5: Transport of dangerous goods

Programme elements

09.5.1 Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (1)

Programme activity 09.6: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

Programme elements

09.6.1 Impact of transport infrastructure and operations on the environment including pollution and noise (1)
09.6.2 Promotion of economy and efficiency in transport (2)

Programme activity 09.7: Combined transport

Programme elements

09.7.1 Promotion of combined and multimodal transport (1)

09.7.2 Safety requirements for the construction, maintenance and handling of combined transport equipment (2)

Programme activity 09.8: Customs questions affecting transport

Programme elements

09.8.1 Harmonization of requirements concerning several modes of transport and facilitation of their operation (2)

Programme activity 09.9: Transport of perishable foodstuffs

Programme elements

09.9.1 Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operations (2)

Programme activity 09.10: Transport statistics and information

Programme elements

09.10.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents (2)

09.10.2 Harmonization of transport statistics in Europe (3)

09.10.3 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport (3)

Programme activity 09.11: Facilitation of movement and transport of disabled persons

Programme elements

09.11.1 Road, rail and inland water transport aspects (3)

Programme activity 09.12: General issues

Programme elements

09.12,1 Periodical circulation of selected transport information (3)

SUB-PROGRAMME 10 - STATISTICS

Authority: Programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, approved by the Conference at its thirty-ninth session (ECE/CES/38, paras. 89-94 and Annex III).

Programme activity 10.1: Organization and operation of statistical services

Programme elements

10.1.1 Issues of statistical policy (A)
10.1.2 Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe (A)
10.1.3 Promotion of the coordination of international statistical work (A)

Programme activity 10.2: Statistical information technology

Programme elements

10.2.1 Use of Electronic Data Processing for statistical purposes (A)
10.2.2 Statistical Computing Programme (SCP)
10.2.3 Design and development of statistical databases
10.2.4 Statistical output for dissemination to information media (C)

Programme activity 10.3: Economic statistics

Programme elements

10.3.1 Development of national accounts
10.3.2 Foreign trade statistics (C)
10.3.3 Indicators of short-term economic and technical change (A)
10.3.4 Manufacturing statistics (C)
10.3.5 Agriculture statistics (A)
10.3.6 Forest and forest industry statistics (A)
10.3.7 Statistics of services (A)
10.3.8 Transport statistics (A)
10.3.9 Statistics of household income (A)
10.3.10 Price and quantity statistics
10.3.11 International comparisons
10.3.12 Business registers in national statistical offices (C)
10.3.13 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of economic statistics (C)

Programme activity 10.4: Social and demographic statistics

Programme elements

10.4.1 Coordination of social and demographic statistics
10.4.2 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of social and demographic statistics (C)
10.4.3 Registers for social and demographic statistics in national statistical offices (C)
10.4.4 Labour force statistics (B)
10.4.5 Migration statistics (A)
10.4.6 Population and housing censuses (A)
10.4.7 Statistics on women (A)
10.4.8 Human settlements statistics (A)
10.4.9 Demographic projections (B)
10.4.10 Fertility surveys (B)

Programme activity 10.5: Natural resource and environment statistics

Programme elements	
10.5.1	Energy statistics (A)
10.5.2	Development of concepts, definitions and classifications in individual areas of environment statistics
10.5.3	Development of an international environmental data service
10.5.4	Methodological problems of environment statistics
10.5.5	Frameworks for environment statistics

Programme activity 10.6: Support for ECE publications, studies and projects

Programme elements	
10.6.1	Publication of statistical bulletins (A)
10.6.2	Support for the statistical work of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (A)
10.6.3	Provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects (A)
10.6.4	Substantive support for statistical activities financially supported by UNDP (C)

ANNEX II

SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.1: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

00.1.1 Review and guidance of the activities of the Commission as a whole: evaluation, coordination and formulation of the programme of work

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will consider its work as a whole; review and evaluate its own activity as well as that of its subsidiary bodies; guide the policy orientation, coordination and planning of the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies under its auspices; and formulate and approve its programme of work.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission performs this function with the assistance of its Sessional Committee as appropriate, by considering at its annual sessions the reports of its subsidiary bodies on their work and the Executive Secretary's reports on the implementation of its relevant resolutions and decisions. The Commission considers and approves annually its programme of work for the following year and endorses in principle, subject to review at the following session, its long-term programme of work covering the next five years. The policy guidance given by the Commission, including measures for coordination, is embodied in its decisions to be implemented, as appropriate, by member Governments, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by its secretariat.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.2 The work of the Commission as a whole and its future activities

Description: In its decision 0 (45) the Commission decided on the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation, and economic analysis. It also decided on practical measures in these priority areas and on the broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, in order to promote the process of economic reform and integrating the economies in transition with the global economy. The Commission also agreed on a series of measures on the methods of work, the structure and the resources of the Commission.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision A (46), the Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to carry out without delay the provisions of decision 0 (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work, and requested also the Executive Secretary to implement the provisions of that decision where the secretariat is concerned.

The Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to take into account in their work the pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents which call for

multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE; and requested the Executive Secretary to report if invited to do so to ensure that all relevant meetings of the CSCE were fully apprised of the relevant activities of the ECE.

It recalled that in accordance with decision O (45) account should be taken of the impact that ECE activities in sectors not identified as priorities, such as energy, have on priority sectors.

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: One year (1992/1993)

00.1.3 The work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Description: Taking into account the fact that the recent and current developments in central and eastern Europe modify the characteristics and functioning of the societies and economies of countries of the region, the Commission, in its decisions D (45) and B (46), considered that in view of its composition and the nature of the cooperation which it implements it had a role to play in assisting the transition to market economies.

In its decision O (45) the Commission noted that work in its five priority sectors contributed significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition with the economies of the ECE region and therefore with the global economy. It decided, in order to promote the process of economic reform, on broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, and determined that the primary work methods employed to address transition issues should be workshops and other similar informal fora.

Work accomplished: Since the adoption of decision D (45) 42 workshops were held and a further 59 are under consideration. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies at their meetings during the year reviewed their programmes and methods of work to permit a rapid and effective response to the needs of the economies in transition. These activities were carried out in close collaboration with the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular those identified in decisions D (45), O (45) and B (46).

Work to be undertaken: Analytical work on the transition process, including internal and external conditions, will continue to be accorded high priority, in accordance with decision B (46).

Member Governments, the European Community and competent international institutions will be invited to participate actively in transition-related activities, and encouraged to provide continued assistance, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, for promoting such activities.

The Principal Subsidiary Bodies will contribute within their competence to the preparation of practical workshops especially on the transition to market economy.

The Executive Secretary will continue to facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide

expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy. (see also sub-programme 01.)

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.4 Institutional arrangements for ECE

Description: In its decision P (45), The Commission requested its Chairman to convene an ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission, at least once every three months, with, inter alia, the following tasks: (a) to consult on policy matters concerning the activities of the Commission; (b) to assist preparations for the annual sessions of the Commission; (c) to monitor progress in the work programmes of the Commission; (d) to offer any necessary guidance to the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission.

Work accomplished: Four ad hoc Informal Meetings were held since the adoption of decision P (45).

Work to be undertaken: Further ad hoc informal meetings will be convened by the Chairman of the Commission in accordance with decision P (45).

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.5 Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

Description: The Commission and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies pay particular attention to projects and activities of interest to the Mediterranean countries of the ECE region, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission's subsidiary bodies identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of transport and environment, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work. The Executive Secretary cooperates with the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA and other relevant United Nations bodies and pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries.

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THE ECE REGION

00.2.1 Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual economic survey, economic bulletin and other special studies and statistical bulletins prepared and published by the secretariat were made available to the Commission for this annual review. In its decision B (46), the Commission invited the Senior Economic Advisers and the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision O (45) and having in mind the right and responsibility of the secretariat to exercise independent judgement in its analysis, to deepen their consultations in order to achieve the highest quality of the annual Economic Survey of Europe, notably by improving pre-publication exchange of views; and stressed the need for this Survey to be published in time to enable it to be properly studied and reflected upon during the annual session. (para. 8)

Duration: Continuing

00.2.2 Population

Description: In accordance with the provisions of decision G (40), the Executive Secretary carries out work in the field of population, within existing resources, and maintains collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of regional meetings of experts on population convened periodically, but not more than every two years, in cooperation with UNFPA. These meetings aim to provide consultations amongst Governments and the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region.

Work accomplished: Collaboration with UNFPA is maintained through projects dealing, respectively, with economic and social implications of aging, population and development in southern Europe, integration of population and socio-economic policies, migration, and promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region. Funding for these projects is provided by UNFPA.

Work to be undertaken: ECE, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, will organize a European Population Conference in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993 as a regional contribution to the World Population Conference in 1994.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.3: RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

00.3.1 Review and follow-up of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing on the work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions, the Commission will review the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly which have a bearing on its work and will decide on the action to be taken by it in the light of the provisions of those resolutions and decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review on the basis of the Executive Secretary's note in which he brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly during the period since the previous session of the Commission, and the relevant work under way.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.2 The Commission's contribution to the follow-up of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

Description: In accordance with decision J (40) the Executive Secretary will continue to assess developments with respect to the economic role of women in the ECE region in conjunction with other research activities of the secretariat, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide, medium-term plan for women and development and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. By its resolution 1990/12 the Economic and Social Council convened a World Conference on Women in 1995. Work will be undertaken to prepare a regional contribution to the World Conference in 1995.

Work accomplished: The secretariat has undertaken a time use study of women in the ECE region, with the financial support of INSTRAW. The regional commissions, including ECE, have agreed to undertake parallel activities in the field of women in cooperation with INSTRAW.

Work to be undertaken: In accordance with decision H (44) the secretariat will concentrate on an Inventory of the scope and content of time-use/time-budget questionnaires and of time-use studies, and will make this data available to member countries. Consideration will be given to the holding of a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference in 1995.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.3 The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

Description: The Commission welcomed General Assembly resolution 44/227 on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 on the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), as well as General Assembly resolution 44/288 on the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In its decision H (45) the Commission reiterated its call upon its subsidiary bodies actively to promote sustainable development as a guiding principle for all relevant activities of the ECE, and agreed to intensify its efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable development by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into projects and programmes in all areas.

Work accomplished: The results of the regional conference at ministerial level (Bergen, 8-16 May 1990) to review progress in the follow-up of selected aspects of the Report of the WCED were communicated to the appropriate Principal Subsidiary Bodies. A Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was established to consider relevant parts of the outcome of the Bergen Conference.

Work to be undertaken: The Senior Economic Advisers, in coordination with the OECD and the UNCED secretariat, will analyse further the interrelationship between economic activity and the environment, identify major factors affecting sustainable economic development in the ECE and study guidelines to achieve such sustainable economic development in the region, taking into account the particular situation of the countries in transition.

The Executive Secretary has continued to bring to the attention of the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions the ECE activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development and strengthening of international cooperation in this field, and in particular the results and follow-up of the Bergen Conference.

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Five years (1988-1992).

00.3.4 Climate change

Description: The General Assembly has recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind, and called on all relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to support the work of the joint WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Work accomplished: In accordance with decision E (46), the substantive issues related to climate change have been taken up by a number of Principal Subsidiary Bodies. The Executive Secretary has continued the assessment of the Commission's programmes, activities and discussions bearing on the relationship of human activities and the climate, taking also into account the work and studies of the INC, IPCC, OECD and IAEA.

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Three years (1989-1992).

00.3.5 ECE's contribution to the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, including Earthquake Prediction

Description: In its resolution 44/236, the General Assembly called upon the regional commissions to play an active role in implementing the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Problems related to construction in seismic regions will be considered within the programme of work of the Committee on Human Settlements.

Duration: Two years (1990-1992).

00.3.6 International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Description: In its decision C (46), the Commission recalled Assembly resolution 45/190 and Council resolution 1990/50, and expressed profound concern about ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at

Chernobyl, which had serious national and international consequences of unprecedented scale. It noted the work being done by the Committees on Timber, Agriculture, and Human Settlements, the Conference of European Statisticians, and the Working Parties on the Chemical Industry and on Engineering Industries and Automation, in exploring the possibilities to elaborate within their competence projects on problems arising from the Chernobyl accident.

Work accomplished: A number of ECE subsidiary bodies have continued to review proposals for activities to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The secretariat has participated in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force set up by the United Nations Coordinator in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/190.

Work to be undertaken: The Commission requested these subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts in this direction, and invited other subsidiary bodies to examine the possibility of making a contribution to this end. The Executive Secretary was requested to support the efforts of the subsidiary bodies in implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190. The secretariat will continue to participate in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

00.4.1 Review of the Commission's cooperation with other United Nations bodies

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities in support of and its contribution to other United Nations programmes, especially those of UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and INSTRAW, as well as of the other regional commissions. It will also consider matters relating to its cooperation with other United Nations bodies including the specialized agencies such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and WHO, as well as IAEA. Special attention will be paid to problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission carries out this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the participation of such organizations and programmes in the Commission's work; on the Commission's own contribution to the programmes of these organizations; and on the secretariat's cooperation with the secretariats of these organizations, including the secretariats of the other regional commissions.

Duration: Continuing.

00.4.2 Review of the Commission's cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities related to cooperation and coordination of its activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, and with international

non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, with particular regard to those organizations and institutions mentioned in decision 0 (45).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the relevant activities arising out of the participation of such organizations and their secretariats in, and the contribution they make to, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Duration: Continuing.

* * *